

Transcript of David Sandoz

Date: March 5, 2020

Case: RLI Insurance Company -v- Nexus Services, Inc.

Planet Depos

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1 (1 to 4)

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                                                                                       APPEARANCES
            FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
                                                                         ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:
                 Harrisonburg Division
   ----x
                                                                              VIVIAN KATSANTONIS, ESQUIRE
  RLI INSURANCE COMPANY,
                                                                              WATT, TIEDER, HOFFAR & FITZGERALD, LLP
   Plaintiff,
                                                                              1765 Greensboro Station Place
                             : Case No.:
                                                                              Suite 1000
   NEXUS SERVICES, INC., et al., : 5:18-cv-00066-MFU
                                                                              McLean, Virginia 22102
   Defendants.
                                                                              703.749.1000
   ----X
                                                                         ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANTS:
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          VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF DAVID SANDOZ
                                                                      13
                                                                              JOHN M. SHOREMAN, ESQUIRE
                East Peoria, Illinois
                                                                              MARIO WILLIAMS
15
                Thursday, March 5, 2020
                                                                              MCFADDEN & SHOREMAN
                       9:56 a.m.
                                                                              1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW
17
                                                                      17
                                                                              Suite 1000
                                                                              Washington, D.C. 20036
                                                                              202.772.3188
20 Job No.: 290631
21 Pages: 1 - 355
22 Reported by: Konni L. Stapf, RPR, CSR
              Videotaped Deposition of DAVID SANDOZ
                                                                                      APPEARANCES (Continued)
                                                                         ON BEHALF OF NONPARTY, DAVID SANDOZ:
   held at the:
                                                                              JONATHAN LA PHILLIPS, ESQUIRE
   EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON
                                                                              ATTORNEY AT LAW
   EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM
                                                                              4541 North Prospect Road, Suite 300A
   100 Conference Center Drive
                                                                              Peoria Heights, IL 61616
   East Peoria, Illinois 61611
                                                                              309.643.9016
   309.694.0200
                                                                              jon@jlaplaw.com
10
                                                                         ALSO PRESENT: Tim Coverstone, Videographer
12
                                                                      12
13
                                                                      13
              Pursuant to notice, before Konni L.
14 Stapf, Registered Professional Reporter and
15 Certified Court Reporter in the states of Illinois,
16 Iowa, and Arizona.
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Transcript of David Sandoz

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Conducted on March 5, 2020 15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Here begins tape ask me to clarify or restate the question. And if 2 number one in the videotaped deposition of David you want to take any breaks, that's fine. 3 Sandoz in the matter of RLI Insurance Company The other thing is the court 4 versus Nexus Services, Incorporated, et al., in the reporter -- I know I tend to sometimes just nod or 5 U.S. District Court for the Western District of say -- you know, instead of saying yes or no. So please try to state full answers, yes, no so that 6 Virginia, Harrisonburg Division, Case No. 7 5:18-CV-00066-MFU. the court reporter can pick that up. Okay? Today's date is March 5, 2020, and the A. Okav. 9 time indicated on the video screen is 9:56 a.m. 9 O. And is there any reason why you can't 10 Our videographer today, my name is Tim Coverstone 10 testify fully today? 11 representing Planet Depos. This video deposition No. 11 A. 12 is taking place at 100 Conference Center Drive in 12 Q. Okay. Okay. So you understand we're 13 East Peoria, Illinois. 13 here with regard to the litigation between RLI and 14 Nexus Services and Libre by Nexus and Homes by 14 Would counsel, please, voice identify 15 themselves and state whom they represent. 15 Nexus? MS. KATSANTONIS: Vivian Katsantonis on A. Yes. 16 17 behalf of RLI Insurance Company. 17 Q. And if I refer -- if I just say Nexus, MR. SHOREMAN: John Shoreman on behalf 18 for purposes of this deposition, I'm just going to 19 be referring to all three of the entities. Okay? 19 of defendants. 20 And if we need to parse it out, I'll do so. 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Jonathan Phillips on 21 behalf of nonparty deponent, David Sandoz. Is that all right with you if I just 21 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: And our court 22 say Nexus? 16 1 reporter today is Konni Stapf representing Planet A. 1 Yes. And if there is any other 2 Depos. O. clarifications, just let me know. Would the reporter, please, swear in our witness. 4 A. Okav. Thank you. All right. So I just want 5 to get to some very general high level background. 6 DAVID SANDOZ, I know you were with RLI for 25 years; is that 7 a witness herein, having been first duly sworn to speak the truth and nothing but the truth, was correct? 9 examined and testified as follows: 9 A. Approximately. Okay. When did you start with RLI? 10 10 Q. **EXAMINATION August 1992.** 11 11 A. Okay. And as far as your background, 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 12 Q. 13 what was your -- what degrees do you hold? Good morning, Mr. Sandoz. 13 Q. A degree in mathematics. 14 A. Morning. 14 A. Thank you for appearing for your Okay. All right. Any other 15 15 Q. Q. 16 certifications or professional qualifications? 16 deposition. Have you been deposed before? 17 A. Yes. 17 A. No. O. Okay. So just -- I'm just going to --And what year did you obtain your 18 18 Q. 19 you know, just ground rules. I'm going to ask a 19 degree? 20 series of questions. I'll try to complete my A. 20 199 - 1977, excuse me.

21

O.

Okay. And in between, just generally,

22 '77 and '92, before you started at RLI, what kind

21 question before you answer it. And if I say

22 something inartfully, you know, please feel free to

5 (17 to 20)

19

1 of work did you do?

- 2 A. I was in the surety business, in 3 miscellaneous sureties.
- Q. All right. And then in -- from 1992
- 5 until 2000 -- end of 2016 you worked at RLI, right?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Did you have various roles and
- 8 responsibilities?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. And in the -- let's just say,
- 11 what was your title in 2016?
- 12 A. I believe it was vice president of
- 13 miscellaneous surety at that point.
- 14 Q. Okay. All right. And as vice15 president of miscellaneous surety, what was your16 role and responsibility?
- 17 A. I had responsibility for overall 18 profitability of that particular segment.
- 19 Q. And so does that mean you were
- 20 functioning in an underwriting capacity or
- 21 management of underwriters or what was the
- 22 capacity?
- 1 A. Both.
- 2 Q. And for how many years were you vice
- 3 president of miscellaneous surety, roughly?
- 4 A. How many years of?
- 5 Q. Were you in that position, vice
- 6 president of miscellaneous surety?
- 7 A. At RLI?
- 8 Q. Yes.
- 9 A. For the full time that I was there I 10 was involved in miscellaneous surety.
- 11 Q. All right. And just generally
- 12 miscellaneous surety is -- how would you define 13 that?
- 14 A. It's a lot of small transactional type
 15 business. So more for individuals requiring bonds
 16 or small businesses.
- 17 Q. So what would be the -- prior to Nexus, 18 what would be the range of the size bonds that you 19 dealt with?
- 20 A. In miscellaneous surety or in other 21 segments as well?
- 22 Q. Well, I think that you said that you

1 were only in miscellaneous surety at RLI.

- 2 A. No, I was not. I said that I was in
- 3 miscellaneous surety for the full years that I was
- 4 there, but I also was involved in other segments of
- 5 surety for a period of time.
- 6 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. I misunderstood
- 7 that.
- First, let's do miscellaneous surety.
- 9 In miscellaneous surety, what was the range size of
- 10 the bonds that you were dealing with, generally?
- 11 A. Typically, they were bonds up to maybe
- 12 \$100,000, but we underwrote bonds larger than that.

 O. Okay. And what was the other divisions
- 14 you said that you were involved in, other than
- 15 miscellaneous surety?
- 16 A. Contract surety.
- 17 Q. And how long were you doing contract
- 18 surety work?
- 19 A. I would have to estimate that.
- 20 Q. I'm not holding you to specifics. I'm
- 21 just asking for estimates.
- 22 A. Approximately, from 1996 or '7 through,

20

- 1 maybe, 2013 or 2014.
 - Q. Okay. And then what kind of contract
 - B bonds were you dealing with; were they all
- 4 commercial bonds or construction bonds?
- 5 A. We did just a variety of construction
- 6 bonds.

- 7 Q. Okay
- 8 A. Both commercial and some private.
- 9 Q. Okay. So let's -- and in your role in
- 10 these bonding programs for all this time period,
- 11 just as a general, kind of, I just want to
- 12 understand the procedure.
- So it was part of your responsibility
- 14 to, for lack of a better word, get new business?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And so in -- what was your general
- 17 process in getting new businesses? I mean, as far
- 18 as -- if you were -- and I don't mean going to
- 19 identify clients. Once you identified a client,
- 20 what were the kinds of things that you did to
- 21 determine whether to write a bond?
- 22 A. Most of what I did was in the

24

21

- 1 management oversight, so there were underwriters
- 2 that typically worked with the insurance agents and
- 3 the insurance agent's clients.
- Q. Okay. And so is -- I'm just trying to
- 5 get your, what I think is your familiarity with --
- 6 as part of the underwriting process, is it true
- 7 that you would do things like, you know, review the
- 8 financials of a company and have them sign standard
- 9 indemnity agreements?

10 A. Yes, for a portion of the business that 11 we wrote, yes.

- 12 Q. So what do you mean for a portion?
- 13 There is another portion that you didn't look at
- 14 their financials or didn't get them to sign
- 15 indemnity agreements?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. What portion would that be?
- 18 A. Well, I can give you an example, like a 19 notary bond.
- 20 Q. Okay. That's great. All right. But
- 21 typically with contract and construction and some
- 22 of these other type of miscellaneous bonds, you
- 1 would certainly -- you were very familiar with
- 2 indemnity agreements. Was that something that was
- 3 commonly required in order to issue bonds?
- 4 A. For some types of bonds, yes.
- 5 Q. For the majority of bonds?
- 6 A. No, I can't answer that question. I
- 7 can't give you an estimate of how many bonds --
- Q. I'm just trying to understand what are
- 9 the other categories that -- maybe it's my own
- 10 ignorance. I deal mostly in construction
- 11 contracts.
- So, you know, I'm just trying to figure
- 13 out what are some of the other areas. You said
- 14 notary. Is there anything else like that?
- 15 A. Well, like, small municipal license and
- 16 permit bonds. They were just underwritten without 17 much underwriting.
- 18 (Mr. Williams entered the deposition
- 19 room.)
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 21 Q. And so how -- with regard to Nexus, how
- 22 was your first introduction to Nexus, do you

- 1 recall?
- 2 A. The general counsel of RLI apparently
- 3 had a phone call with -- or was dealing with a law
- 4 firm outside of RLI and that law firm -- somehow
- 5 the discussion must have led to that he was in --
- 6 that law firm was involved in some way with Nexus
- 7 and that general counsel at RLI asked if I would be
- 8 interested in considering that -- considering to
- 9 write immigration bonds and asked if I would be
- 10 willing to call that law firm and/or Nexus. I 11 forget what -- I've forgotten.
- 12 Q. Right. And so you had a call with
- 13 Nexus, correct, to the best of your recollection,
- 14 about starting?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Right. And -- and when you spoke with
- 17 Nexus, did you have an understanding as to who was
- 18 the surety issuing immigration bonds up until that
- 19 time before your involvement?
- 20 A. You know, I don't recall.
- 21 Q. Okay. Do you know whether -- if you
- 22 don't recall, that's fine, do you know whether it
- 1 was IFIC?

3

- 2 A. No, I don't.
 - Q. Okay. And I'm going to show you --
- 4 (Deposition Exhibit 1 marked
- 5 for identification.)
- 6 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm going to mark as
 - Exhibit 1. I'm going to shift gears here.
- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Vivian, are you going to
- 9 want this back or can I mark this for him?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: No, you can have it.
- 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 12 O. So Exhibit 1 is an e-mail from Rick
- 13 Nagel of Nexus to you, copying Mr. Donovan and
- 14 others, and it says, the following document is a
- 15 synopsis of our conference call including next
- 16 steps.
- Do you recall this e-mail?
- 18 A. No. I don't.
- 19 Q. But to the best of your knowledge,
- 20 it's -- you don't have any reason to doubt the
- 21 authenticity of the document?
- 22 A. No.

7 (25 to 28)

1 Q. Okay. So this is a recap of

2 conversation and it's -- a memo at the bottom says,

3 prepared by Rick Nagel and approved by Mr. Donovan.

Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So the description of the call

7 talks about it's a second contact between Nexus and

8 RLI for the purpose of discussing Nexus programs

9 and products.

10 So generally, to the best of your

11 knowledge, do you recall having a conversation

12 where you were trying to learn about Nexus's

13 business in order to evaluate whether to issue

14 bonds?

15 A. I did have -- yeah, I did have 16 discussions with Nexus, correct.

17 Q. In an effort to evaluate their business

18 to make a determination whether to issue bonds?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And so it says here in the

21 second paragraph that Mr. Donovan answered many

22 questions about the business structure and program

1 performance and provided information related to the

2 program's success.

And then it says, Mr. Donovan confirmed

4 that the program has, approximately, 2,174

5 participants.

6 Do you recall that?

7 A. No.

8 Q. But you have no reason to think that's

9 not accurate, correct, at this time?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And then it says, Mr. Donovan confirmed

12 that the program has a success rate (defined as

13 compelling respondent to appear in immigration

14 court) of 99.7 percent.

Do you recall that?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. You don't recall Nexus advising

18 you that their success rate was extremely low -- I

19 mean, extremely high success rate of having

20 immigrants appear in court?

21 A. I don't remember specifics about it.

22 But, yeah, if it was - if it was an enormous

1 number of folks that didn't show up to their court

2 hearing, then I would have had a different opinion

3 about the program.

Q. Right. But you recall generally that

5 they were -- Nexus was touting to you what

6 a -- that they had a much better rate than anybody

7 else because of the uniqueness of their program and

8 their services, right?

9 A. I believe so.

10 Q. And so here they define the success

11 rate as compelling a respondent to appear in

12 immigration court.

Do you see that?

14 A. In the parenthesis?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Right. And is that consistent with

18 your understanding of how the bonds worked, if an

19 immigrant made it to his or her appearances, then

20 the liability could be removed and the bond would

21 be canceled?

22 A. You mean the full process?

Q. Yes.

1

2 A. Yes. ICE has to release the immigrant

3 before the bond is terminated.

4 Q. Right. But that -- you understood,

5 like, the bond obligation is for the immigrant to

6 appear when ICE asks them to appear, basically,

7 right, when they have to appear in court or be

8 delivered.

9 Did you understand that generally?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And so, you know, I guess that's what I

12 was just trying to confirm. So Mr. Donovan says

13 the success rate is based on compelling respondents

14 to appear in immigration court, right?

15 A. Well, that's what the document says,

16 yes.

17 Q. Okay. And that's consistent with your 18 understanding?

19 A. I believe so.

20 Q. Okay. And then it says, Mr. Donovan

21 confirmed that over 25 percent -- 20 percent,

22 excuse me, of the bonds posted have been canceled,

27

32

29

30

and in parenthesis, liability has been removed, and

- 2 that, approximately, 10 percent more are pending
- 3 confirmation.
- 4 So I guess, again, that's what you were
- 5 saying, right? That if a bond is canceled, that
- 6 means that the surety liability has been removed,
- 7 there's no more exposure under the bond; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. All right. In the second
- 11 paragraph there is a discussion about -- there is
- 12 some conversation about up front cash or letter of 13 credit.
- Do you see that?
- 15 A. The second paragraph –
- 16 Q. Uh-huh.
- 17 A. or the third?
- 18 Q. I'm sorry. You're right. The third.
- 19 The one starting with Mr. Sandoz indicated.
- 20 A. All right.
- 21 Q. Okay. Was it -- do you recall a
- 22 discussion about Nexus being required to post
- 1 collateral?
- 2 A. Not the specifics.
- 3 Q. Right. But, generally, you recall that
- 4 RLI requested Nexus to post collateral, right?
- 5 A. I believe I asked them to provide some 6 collateral until I understood the program better
- 7 and knew that it was functioning the way that it
- 8 was described.
- 9 Q. Okay. And is collateral something that 10 is typically required in bond situations in order 11 to protect RLI from potential exposure on its 12 bonds?
- 13 A. In my area, collateral was very rare.
- 14 Q. Okay. But in -- I mean, this is one of
 15 your first discussions with Nexus. So in this
 16 particular bond program, you immediately determined
 17 that collateral would be necessary, right?
- 18 A. I just asked for, and I don't remember
 19 the all the specifics, but I asked them to
 20 provide some collateral until I got comfortable
 21 with the program because there was a lot of bonds
 22 and not just a small number of bonds.

- Q. Right. So in general I'm just trying
- 2 to understand, I mean, I think -- again, and I
- 3 apologize, because most of my experience is
- 4 construction, so sometimes that's where I think,
- 5 you know, based on my experience. So I'm just
- trying to understand here.
 - So collateral in general, as I
- 8 understand it, and you can correct me if I'm wrong,
- 9 and then I wonder if that's what you were thinking
- 10 for here, is posted so that -- to protect the
- 11 surety from their potential exposure on bonds they
- 12 are issuing or going to issue; is that right?
- 13 A. In some cases, yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. And in this case would that be
- 15 why you wanted collateral?
- 16 A. As explained, I just wanted to get a 17 little bit of collateral to make sure that that 18 there were some protection until I understood the 19 program better and it was working the way that I 20 thought it should work.
- 21 Q. Right. And I guess where I'm trying to 22 ask, and I know I think I'm being a little inartful
- 1 with it. When you asked for collateral in advance,
- 2 it's for potential or future exposure, right? Does
- 3 that make sense?
- 4 MR. WILLIAMS: What do you mean by
- 5 potential exposure? Are you asking -- I don't know
- what you mean by potential exposure?
- 7 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 8 Q. Well, when you're asking for collateral
- 9 up front, you haven't -- you haven't incurred any 10 liability yet, right?
- 11 A. At the time that I yes, what is the 12 date? This is 2015. Yes.
- 3 Q. So you are asking for collateral to
- 14 protect against potential liability in the future
- 15 based on your exposure; is that right?
- 16 A. Well, this in this instance it would 17 give me leverage. If the program wasn't working, 18 then I had leverage, and I had — so I did have 19 some collateral that they would eventually want 20 returned. So it was for leverage.
- 21 Q. And security so that if things didn't 22 go well and RLI would be required in the future to

9 (33 to 36)

35 pay on a bond or something, you'd have some cash MR. WILLIAMS: No, the rule says that. available; is that right? Rule 30 to depositions say that. 3 It could be used for that, yes. MS. KATSANTONIS: Our --Right. All right. And then under next Q. 4 MR. WILLIAMS: Rule 45 too. steps, Nexus invited RLI to come to its campus to MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Williams, our 6 observe its operations, meet our staff, and view deposition is -- we're having fine communication. the technology that is being utilized to ensure we I'm just trying to -- so that we can --8 are providing for the various needs of our clients MR. WILLIAMS: I just want to put that 9 while ensuring the utmost attention is given to 9 on the record. I just want to put that on record 10 mitigating our risk. 10 because that's not what the rule allows for. Do you see that? MS. KATSANTONIS: This is a third-party 11 11 12 A. Yes. 12 witness. 13 And what was your understanding of the MR. WILLIAMS: That point being. O. 13 14 technology that was being utilized by Nexus to MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm not going to 14 15 ensure they were providing for the various needs of 15 argue with you and waste my time on the record. 16 their clients? 16 MR. WILLIAMS: All right, 17 A. At that time, I only remember the GPS 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 18 Q. Anyway, with regard to -- did you 18 monitoring. Right. And your understanding was that 19 consider that -- that the GPS monitoring was an Q. 20 RLI used GPS monitoring on the program participants 20 important factor to mitigating risk? 21 to ensure they complied with their bond obligations A. Yes. 21 22 to appear in court, those kind of things? 22 Q. And then you did, in fact, conduct a 34 36 RLI didn't use any technology. 1 site visit at Verona, right? 1 A. I mean, I'm sorry. I must have O. Do you recall that? misspoke. I do that all the time. I have, yes, I've been to Verona, but I 3 I'm saying your understanding was that don't know when the dates were or anything of that Nexus was using the GPS system on its program nature. 5 participants to ensure that they would make their 6 I have e-mails, if you want to see it, appearances in court; is that correct? and I have your travel itinerary. You went on A. That was one tool they used, yes. June 3, 2015. 9 MR. WILLIAMS: Are you treating him as 9 Do you want to see that? 10 a hostile witness? 10 A. No, I really don't. MS. KATSANTONIS: No. 11 11 MR. PHILLIPS: I would. 12 MR. WILLIAMS: Because you keep asking 12 MS. KATSANTONIS: Do you want to see 13 leading questions. And the way depositions work is 13 it? 14 you are supposed to do the same way as in court. 14 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes. 15 So if he's not a hostile witness, 15 MR. WILLIAMS: And I do want to read 16 you've got to stop saying your understanding is 16 this on the record, Rule 30. The examination and 17 correct. That's a leading question. 17 cross examination of deponent proceed as we would MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Williams, I think 18 at trial. 19 that's an improper --19 MS. KATSANTONIS: That's right. MR. WILLIAMS: It's completely proper. MR. WILLIAMS: So it doesn't matter

21 that he's a nonparty deponent. He's a deponent.

22 And you're asking cross examination and leading

21 That's what the rule says.

MS. KATSANTONIS: We're not in court.

10 (37 to 40)

39

37

1 questions and that's not how --

2 MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Williams, if you 2

- 3 want me to say that I'll treat him as a hostile
- 4 witness, I will. But I'm not trying -- I'm trying
- 5 to have a pleasant discussion with Mr. Sandoz and
- get through his deposition.
- 7 I'm going to mark this so you have a
- 8 copy, since your counsel asked for it. I'm just
- 9 going to make sure it's on the record.
- 10 (Deposition Exhibit 2 marked
- 11 for identification.) 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 13 Q. And so there are previous e-mails with 14 you, Mr. Nagel -- was Mr. Nagel your primary 15 contact?
- 16 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. I would just 17 like a moment to actually review this.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure. No problem. 19 If you want, counsel, there are previous e-mails, I
- 20 just want to try to make the record go quicker,
- 21 where Mr. Sandoz is writing to Nexus saying -- 22 talking about his plans to come out to the
- 1 headquarters to see how your operations work.
- 2 MR. PHILLIPS: Understood.
- 3 (Mr. Williams left the deposition
- 4 room.)
- 5 MR. PHILLIPS: I've had a chance to
- 6 review it.
- 7 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 8 Q. I guess you say you don't recall the 9 date, obviously, but you recall that you certainly 10 went out to Verona to witness and review Nexus's 11 operation, correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And do you -- and our records show that 14 it was June 3 or 4, 2015. Do you -- do you recall 15 generally what did you review and, you know, what 16 you observed and what were the discussions?
- MR. PHILLIPS: I'm going to object to 18 the question because I'm -- not only compound, but 19 I can't tell whether, I'm actually looking over the 20 court reporter's shoulder here, whether you're
- 21 asking whether he recalls on June 4 or 3 what
- 22 occurred or that -- because he said he doesn't know

- 1 when he was there. Or if you're asking when he's
- 2 been there at some time, which he has said, what
- 3 happened.
- I want to make sure words aren't being put in my client's mouth because if he remembers
- 6 something later, I don't want him to get in trouble
- 7 for saying it here.
- 8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 9 Q. No, no. I'm just trying to get the 10 best of your recollection, honestly.
- 11 Well, for purposes of these questions 12 right now, prior to RLI issuing any bonds, you 13 traveled to Verona to review Nexus's operations, 14 right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. So -- and, you know, I will say 17 our records show at least two visits. Is it true 18 that you don't recall or you can't recall the 19 difference in one visit versus the next?
- 20 A. Yes, that would be true.
- 21 Q. So I'm just trying to understand
- 22 what -- during the visit or visits generally your
- 38
 - 1 recollection of what you reviewed and who attended
 - 2 those meetings?
 - 3 A. Oh, gosh, I would have to guess at
 - 4 that.Q. Okay. Well, you know, you definitely
 - 6 recall meeting in person prior to issuing bonds?
 - 7 A. Yes.
 - 8 Q. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Moore?
 - 9 A. I know Mr. Donovan and Rick was 10 probably in the meeting, but I don't remember who 11 all attended the meetings. I'm sorry.
 - 12 Q. No, that's okay. And just generally
 - 13 did you just talk about the program and, you know,
 - 14 Mr. Donovan or Mr. Nagel gave you information about
 - 15 the program to help you understand it?
 - MR. PHILLIPS: I'm going to object.
 - 17 I'm not trying to make any argument, but I do 18 believe these are leading questions.
 - 19 If you want to ask him what do you
 - 20 remember about the meetings, I'm sure he'll tell
 - 21 you. But you're putting a lot of words in his
 - 22 mouth.

11 (41 to 44)

43

44

MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm honestly just

- 2 trying to help him along in the sense that he
- 3 doesn't remember specifics.
- 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. So I'm just trying to say, you can
- 6 answer generally what you generally remember, like,
- 7 did they tell you about their program; did you --
- 8 you know, those kinds of things?

9 A. Yeah, if you have specific questions, 10 maybe that would help me.

- 11 Q. Well, did Nexus explain to you how 12 their program works?
- 13 A. I believe so.
- 14 Q. Okay. And what do you recall about 15 your understanding of how the program worked?

16 A. Well, I believe they — do you mean 17 from the start of the process?

- 18 Q. Yeah. Again, I mean, how did you
- 19 understand that, you know, that they had a
- 20 successful program? What are the things they told
- 21 you about their operations?
- We talked -- one of the things that you
- 1 talked about was GPS. They told you that they use
- 2 GPS monitoring on all the immigrants who were
- 3 program participants, right?
- 4 A. Uh-huh.
- 5 Q. I'm sorry. Can you -- you have to say
- 6 yes for the record.
- 7 A. Yes. I'm sorry.
- Q. And then, you know, did they advise you
- 9 about any other services they provided? In other 10 words, like that they had case workers in the field
- 11 who tracked the immigrants, those kind of things?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 (Mr. Williams entered the deposition 14 room.)
- 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 16 Q. And did they show you their call center 17 and show you we have a call center that --
- 18 (Mr. Williams left the deposition 19 room.)
- 20 A. I believe so. I don't know which
- 21 meeting but yes, I've seen the call center.
- 22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Right. And did they show you the GPS
- 2 tracking monitor that they use and advise you that
- 3 they had their employees wear them to see how it
- 4 feels, that kind of thing as well?

5 A. I seen the GPS attachment, yes, or 6 whatever it's called.

- Q. Right. And at those meetings did you
- 8 talk about Nexus's financial condition?
- 9 A. At some point we did. I don't know if 10 it was out there or through the mail or how I
- 11 don't know I don't know if we discussed the
- 12 financials out there or if it was done through the
- 13 mail.
- 14 Q. Right.
- 15 A. Or phone calls.
- 16 Q. And I apologize because if this was in
- 17 the record right now, it would help.
- 18 (Deposition Exhibit 3 marked
- 19 for identification.)
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 21 Q. So this is an e-mail, I've handed you
- 22 Exhibit 3 dated June 5, 2015, from you.
- Who were the three people that you were
- 2 sending this to?
- 3 A. They are internal staff at RLI in the
- 4 surety area.

5

6

- Q. Okay. So in this -- to the --
 - MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. If I can
- 7 just have a moment to review it.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure.
- MR. PHILLIPS: I apologize, I'm sure
- 10 you guys are familiar with the documents, but I'm a
- 11 third party. The only other -- I guess while I'm
- 12 taking a quick look at this, I notice one of these
- 13 is subject to a protective order. If someone needs
- 14 me or Mr. Sandoz to sign, I think it was the first
- ______
- 15 one, confidential, do not dissimilate.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Nexus stamped many of 17 their documents that.
- MR. PHILLIPS: I'm not going to argue
- 19 about it. I'm just saying if someone needs me to
- 20 sign something, I will.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Thank you. We will
- 22 provide you with something.

Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

12 (45 to 48)

48

1 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay.

- 2 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 3 Q. Have you had an opportunity to review 4 this?
- 5 A. No, I don't have my glasses, but I can 6 read it.
- 7 Q. You can use mine, if you'd like.
- 8 A. It's just going to you're going to
- 9 have to give me a little bit of time.
- 10 Q. Do you want some reading glasses?
- 11 A. Well, I'll take --
- 12 Q. I'm going to need them back in a
- 13 minute, but you can have them briefly. I know I
- 14 have a magnifying glass in my bag.
- 15 A. How about if we do that.
- 16 Q. Then you can just keep that through the 17 deposition. Some of this writing is small.
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. I just have a few quick questions on 20 this.
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. This is an e-mail that you wrote,
- 1 correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. And it followed your trip out to Nexus
- 4 and it's based on information provided to you by
- 5 Nexus, right?
- 6 A. I presume, yes.
- Q. Well, to the best of your knowledge,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And so is it correct that you
- 11 understood from Nexus that the average size of the
- 12 bonds were \$10,000?
- 13 A. I believe so, yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. And did you understand from
- 15 Nexus that they had a scoring system to select the
- 16 detainees they were willing to work with?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And that Nexus advised you that the
- 19 immigrants that they worked with were those that
- 20 had been in the country for a long time, had family
- 21 in the U.S., had a job making income, and had no
- 22 criminal background?

- A. I believe that makes that that made
- 2 up a good portion of their client base.
- Q. Okay. And that's what they had advised you at the time, correct?
- 5 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and
- 6 answered. You can still answer it.
- 7 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 8 Q. He's making an objection for the 9 record.
- 10 A. I don't recall all the specifics of the 11 conversations.
- 12 Q. All right. But you have no reason to
- 13 doubt what you wrote in your e-mail, correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. All right. And then under program
- 16 code, you stated we expected a 0 percent loss 17 ratio.
- Do you see that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And so was it your understanding that
- 21 RLI would expect a 0 percent loss because -- well,
- 22 first of all, that was your expectation, right,
- 1 that RLI would have a 0 percent loss; is that
 - 2 correct?

46

- 3 A. On everything I wrote, that's true.
- 4 Q. But certainly here it was true?
- 5 A. Yes, Nexus was going to stand in front
- 6 of the surety.
- 7 Q. Okay. And take care of any obligations
- 8 before RLI would have to, right?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. And with regard to
- 11 collateral --
- 12 A. Page 2?
- 13 Q. Yes. With regard to collateral, you
- 14 understood that Nexus was going to indemnify RLI, 15 right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And what was your understanding of
- 18 the -- their willingness to provide a bucket of
- 19 collateral?
- 20 A. At this point at this point of this
- 21 letter, I don't recall.
- 22 Q. Okay.

PLANET DEPOS

13 (49 to 52)

51 I don't think Big Marco was involved at A. It looks like that I asked for -- I asked for \$500,000 or an ILOC. 2 this point. I don't believe. But – 2 And the ILOC, that's a letter of **3 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:** Q. credit? See, on the front page it says agency set up. It says we are ready to appoint you when 5 A. Yes. Irrevocable letter of credit? 6 you are ready. 6 Q. MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question 7 A. Yes. (Deposition Exhibit 4 marked 8 pending? 9 for identification.) MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, I'm just trying 10 MR. PHILLIPS: What number is this, 10 to refresh his recollection. 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 11 counsel? 12 MS. KATSANTONIS: This is Exhibit 4. 12 Q. Do you recall initially you thought 13 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 13 that perhaps Nexus might be an agent? Q. So in Exhibit 4, it's the bottom chain I believe so. 14 14 A. Okay. So then looking at the last 15 starting with June 10, Dave Sandoz. 15 Q. 16 Do you see that, right here in the 16 paragraph --17 middle of the page? 17 A. Of? A. Yes. Okay. -- of the second page. 18 18 Q. And on June -- on or about June 10 you 19 Q. 19 Right. A. Q. Okay. You advised Nexus that they 20 provided Mr. Nagel of Nexus with some initial terms 21 would be required to execute an indemnity agreement 21 to consider for RLI to agree to issue bonds. Do you generally recall that? 22 to proceed, right? 50 52 No, but is it in this document here? A. Correct. A. 1 1 Yes. And just for expediency sake, I'm Q. And you also were requesting 3 not going to ask you about the -- and again, to the collateral, right? 4 best of your knowledge, this is an e-mail that you 4 A. Yes. 5 wrote, right, you don't have any reason to dispute 5 And you were also requesting financial 6 that, right? statements, including a P & L statement through May of this year; is that correct? A. Correct. So looking at the second page of the Correct. That's what the document Q. 8 Α. document? 9 says. 10 A. Okay. 10 Q. Okay. So one of the areas you discussed was (Deposition Exhibit 5 marked 11 11 12 commission and do you recall that you were talking for identification.) 12 13 about kind of a sliding scale or additional 13 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 14 commission once the bond was released or canceled? This is Exhibit 5 and the only thing 15 A. I had forgotten that, but in reading it 15 I'm going to ask you on this one is this appears to 16 now, you know, that's what I put down. It's 16 be Mr. Donovan's response to some of the questions 17 accurate, I guess. 17 that you asked. Do you remember that initially your 18 And if you look at the bottom it says, 19 thought was that perhaps Nexus could serve as an 19 financials attached. And then there is a three 20 agent rather than having Big Marco as the agent for 20 year profit and loss projection statement. 21 these bonds? Do you -- did you receive this document 22 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 22 from Nexus with regard to their financial

14 (53 to 56)

55 condition? Is that this page? A. 1 You're on the right page. 2 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. And I guess 2 O. 3 just for my own information, do you mean the e-mail 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Is this being entered in 4 that he's not part of or do you mean the second the record? Is this an exhibit? 5 page of -- that he received the second page of MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes. It's Exhibit 6. this? BY MS. KATSANTONIS: MS. KATSANTONIS: The second page. The 7 It starts on the bottom of page 20, 8 way it works, I think, is it's a response to his which says, thanks, Rick, I'm out at a business 9 e-mail. 9 meeting and then goes to page 21. 10 MR. PHILLIPS: It might be. I'm just 10 So I'm looking at the end of 21, it 11 says, also thank you for sending the profit/loss. 11 asking. 12 I assume 2013 and '14 are actual results and 2015 12 MS. KATSANTONIS: You can see the 13 different font, you know, after -- but that's okay. 13 is your best guess for the year. Do you see that? 14 I'm not going to ask you questions about his answer 14 15 anyway. 15 Yes. A. 16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 16 O. Okay. And you state that you still 17 need the 2014 balance sheet completed for the I just want to ask you, did Nexus 18 provide you with the financials, profit and loss 18 records -- for your records, correct? 19 statement with regard to its financial condition? I'm still reading. That's what it 19 20 I don't know if this is what they 20 states, yes. 21 provided. Is this what was in the e-mail? Is that And for you, it was important to 21 22 what you're --22 understand Nexus's financial condition in order to 54 56 Right. Well, this was attached as his make a determination to issue bonds, right? three year financials that were provided to you and That's -- yeah, that's part of the 2 3 I guess that's why -underwriting process, ves. Q. And is it true that you would or did For me to remember these numbers like you rely on Nexus's representations as to its five years ago I think that --Right. I'm not asking you to remember financial condition in making a determination to 6 these. I think -- let me see if I can help you. issue bonds? So let me mark this an exhibit too. A. I believe so. 8 9 (Deposition Exhibit 6 marked 9 And in the paragraph right above it, 10 that starts with one big key for us? 10 for identification.) 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: A. Uh-huh -- yes. 11 And I'm only doing this to speed things So I'm just trying to understand you 12 12 O. 13 along, and if you have a problem, feel free to tell 13 said, one big key for us is the full life cycle of 14 these bonds and getting them released by the 14 me. 15 So this is an e-mail and I'm going to 15 obligee. 16 be focusing on the middle e-mail that you wrote. 16 Can you tell me what you meant by that? 17 And one of things that you talk about is thank you 17 Basically, I believe it's simply 18 for the profit and loss, and you know --18 getting proper cancelation of the bonds from the

20

22

19 obligee.

21 basically, you're saying --

And if they were released or canceled,

We need that material to close our

Do you want me to turn to that page?

Sure. And I'm going to give you a copy

21 as well, Jonathan. And I'm focusing on page 20 and

19

20

22 21.

A.

15 (57 to 60)

59

1 file.

2 Q. Right. And it's important because

- 3 it -- it starts -- I'm looking for the right word,
- 4 it starts canceling or decreasing RLI's exposure as
- 5 the bonds get canceled out; is that right?
- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 7 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 8 Q. You can use whatever words that you
- 9 want. I'm just trying to understand it.
- 10 A. Well, in any surety bond you issue the
- 11 bond and it goes through the length of the term
- 12 that it stays open and then at some point it's
- 13 canceled. And as an underwriter, you want to get
- 14 the cancelation evidence to close your file and set
- 15 it off to the side. That risk is no longer

16 enforced. It's been released by the obligee.

- 17 Q. Right. And you want that, obviously, 18 canceled sooner than later, right, the sooner the
- 19 better for the surety?
- 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 21 A. Not necessarily.
- 22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. Well, you don't want the exposure out
- 2 there too long, do you?
- 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I'm going
- 4 to -- they are leading, but now it's getting
- 5 argumentative.
- 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 7 Q. I'm not trying to be argumentative. I
- 8 apologize. I'm just trying to understand.
- 9 Did you have an understanding that
- 10 generally the life cycle of these immigration bonds
- 11 was short?
- 12 A. I don't know what the definition of
- 13 short is. I mean, I've got we've had bonds that
- **14 range anywhere from one day to several years that** 14 bathroom.
- 15 we wrote in miscellaneous surety.
- Okay. We'll get to life cycle of the
- 17 bonds, but you also state here that -- that Nexus
- 18 would be required again to sign the indemnity
- 19 agreement and the collateral agreement, is that
- 20 right, those were going to be requirements before
- 21 you would issue the bonds?
- 22 A. I believe so, yes.

- 1 Q. Okay. And then you mention the fact,
- 2 again, you assume that the board had approved your
- 3 request for 500,000 in collateral either -- and
- 4 that that would be provided either as a irrevocable
- 5 letter of credit or cash, right?
- 6 A. I didn't no. I just the sentence
- says I assume that and I meant the Nexus board.
- 8 Q. Sure.
- 9 A. I assume the Nexus board has approved, 10 but I don't know if I knew the answer at that 11 point.
- 12 Q. Right. When you were talking about the 13 key being that the bonds get released, you also 14 talk about that's why the -- we set the emphasis on 15 the commission on the backend. Can you explain 16 what you meant?
- 17 A. It's an incentive, yes. I think we
 18 made incentive on the backend that when the
 19 program I mean, when a bond got canceled, that
 20 instead of paying all the commission up front, I
 21 wanted to split it up so that because Nexus was
 22 involved in helping the underwriting process and

60

- 1 part of that underwriting process is closing out 2 risks.
- 3 And so if they helped in that process,
- 4 then I was putting some of the commission on the
- 5 backend.

- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: If I may, we're right at
- 7 an hour, and I'm about ready for a bathroom break.
- 8 I don't want to interrupt.
- 9 MS. KATSANTONIS: Do you want to do
- 10 that now or do you want me to finish the document?
- 11 MR. PHILLIPS: If you want to finish.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: That's up to you.
- 13 MR. PHILLIPS: I'd rather go to the
- 15 MS. KATSANTONIS: All right. We'll 16 take a break. Thank you.
- 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
- 18 videographer. We're going to go off the record at
- 19 10:56 a.m.
- 20 (Recess taken.)
- 21 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
- 22 videographer. We're going back on the record at

16 (61 to 64)

63

61

62

11:10 a.m.

- 2 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. Okay. Great we were looking at this
- 4 e-mail chain that I presented to you and we were --
- 5 one of the things we were talking about was the
- 6 collateral and I want to look at the page that's
- 7 marked page 20, so the page before that.
- 8 And do you recall on or about June 18
- 9 Nexus asked you to reduce the collateral to 250,000 10 at that time?

11 A. Yes, after reading the document, I 12 believe that's accurate, they did ask it to be 13 reduced.

- 14 Q. Right. And your response -- I was
- 15 looking at your response, which is at the top of
- 16 the page, and I believe you advised that you did
- 17 not believe that you could go that low and that it
- 18 was your understanding that the overall bond
- 19 aggregate was going to be large and so that the
- 20 500,000 you were requesting would be a fraction of
- 21 the total exposure.
- Can you tell me what you meant by that?

A. I may have had an estimate of the

- number of bonds that we anticipated writing. And
- 3 immigration bonds are not one of those one day
- 4 deals where you where they are closed
- 5 immediately.
- 6 So, yes, there could be an accumulation 7 of risk, and I must have estimated it at some
- 8 number and then compared it to the collateral
- 9 requirement.
- 10 Q. By total exposure, are you referencing 11 that risk but based on the value of the issued 12 bonds?

13 A. I believe so.

- 14 Q. And then you say, a year from the start 15 date as we start to see the program mature knowing
- 16 total exposure and how many bonds are released,
- 17 there is always room to negotiate.
- 18 By that were you meaning, you know, as
- 19 we see the rate at which bonds are canceled, and
- 20 you could re-evaluate collateral?
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 22 answer.

- A. Well, again, it's basically -- as the
- 2 program develops, I could get a, you know, a better
- s sense of the program and how it's working and then
- 4 how much, if any, collateral I wanted to keep.
- 5 Q. Right. And when you say total
- 6 exposure, that means -- does that mean, you can
- 7 tell me in your own words, but does that mean how
- 8 many -- the value of bonds that are out there that
- 9 have been issued by RLI?
- 10 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 11 answer.
- 12 A. I believe so.

13 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 14 Q. Okay. And one more question back here
- 15 when we were talking about the financial statements
- 16 on page 21. And you were assuming that the 2013
- 17 and '14 were actual results.
- 18 Do you see that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Did Nexus ever advise you otherwise?
- 21 A. I don't recall.
- 22 Q. To the best of your recollection, when
- 1 you were reviewing the financials, you had accurate 2 information?

A. I would assume.

- 4 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 5 still answer.

3

- 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 7 Q. Okay. And looking at the front page,
- 8 which is page 19, the bottom, do you recall that
- 9 Nexus advised that they would provide the 500,000
- 10 in collateral, however, they would do it in five
- 11 installments of 100,000 each over the course of
- 12 five months?

13 A. Yeah. I didn't recall that, no.

- 14 Q. But you have no reason -- we'll look at
- 15 the collateral agreement, but you have no reason to
- 16 think otherwise, correct?
- 17 A. Yeah. Correct.
- 18 (Deposition Exhibit 7 marked
- 19 for identification.)
- MR. PHILLIPS: And this will be 7,
- 21 correct?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Right. Can I take

3

17 (65 to 68)

68

2 MR. PHILLIPS: I made a little mark on

3 it.

- 4 MS. KATSANTONIS: Just so you know,
- 5 there are some attorney/client -- this was
- 6 inadvertently produced, so I've actually got a
- 7 redacted copy.

that back?

- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay.
- 9 MS. KATSANTONIS: I noticed it last 10 night.
- MR. PHILLIPS: I guess so I don't
- 12 interrupt before your questions, I'd just like to
- 13 put on the record, if you're going to ask
- 14 e-mails -- or ask questions about a redacted set of
- 15 e-mails, it may make it more difficult for
- 16 Mr. Sandoz to answer.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm just going to 18 represent to you on the record that the redacted 19 e-mails are all internal RLI e-mails that have -- 20 it's irrelevant -- it's immaterial to what we're 21 talking about. I just didn't want to waive the
- 22 attorney/client privilege.
- 1 MR. PHILLIPS: I understand. I'm just
- 2 letting you know because I just see that his name
- 3 does appear in those parts that are redacted as
- 4 being from him to Kirk Austin. I don't know who
- 5 that is.
- 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 7 Q. He's an attorney at RLI, right,
- 8 Mr. Sandoz?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. This is an e-mail that you prepared
- 11 talking about your understanding of the Nexus
- 12 program, is that right, based on the information
- 13 provided by -- to you by Nexus?
- 14 A. I presume so.
- 15 Q. Well, right. You don't have any reason 16 to doubt this is your e-mail?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. I'm just trying to make a record.
- 19 Sorry.
- 20 MR. SHOREMAN: You can't use privilege
- 21 as both a shield and a sword here. We have no idea
- 22 what this was in response to. The question that

- 1 Mr. Austin was asking. This is entirely improper.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: No.
- MR. SHOREMAN: You've redacted half of
- 4 the correspondence and asking him to testify about
- 5 his response to a conversation that's redacted. If
- 6 he wants -- if you don't want to use it because
- 7 it's privilege, then don't use it.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: The bottom of the
- 9 e-mails, I'm going to put a representation on here, 10 you actually have an unredacted copy that we're
- to you actuarly have an unredacted copy that we re
- 11 going to just call back. There is nothing -12 MR. SHOREMAN: If it's privileged, it
- 13 will not be used by Nexus in this case. You're
- 14 trying to say he can respond to a document that you
- 15 have entirely redacted.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Shoreman,
- 17 obviously, the attorney/client privilege and
- 18 attorney work product privilege go to the extent
- 19 you're seeking legal advice. Those portions have
- 20 been redacted.
- To the extent Mr. Sandoz is relaying
- 22 factual information that is not seeking attorney
- 1 advise, it's not privileged. That's why the top
 - 2 portion of this e-mail is privileged. I can
 - 3 represent that the bottom portion has to do with
 - 4 drafting documents and is not related at all to the
 - 5 top portion.

- 6 MR. SHOREMAN: Are you putting in the
- 7 record that Mr. Sandoz is responding to -- is not
- 8 responding to Mr. Austin in this document? It
- 9 doesn't -- may I see that for a minute? Doesn't
- 10 it -- this is actually between Mr. Sandoz and
- 11 Mr. Austin and the questions that Mr. Austin
- 12 obviously asked of Mr. Sandoz are entirely
- 13 redacted.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: You can re -- you can 15 question --
- 15 question --
- MR. SHOREMAN: If the bottom half is
- 17 privileged, so is the top half. So you have,
- 18 therefore, to waive your privilege to the entire
- 19 correspondence and possibly to all correspondence
- 20 between Mr. Austin, if you use it. Which is fine.
- 21 Which is --
- MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm going to use it

18 (69 to 72)

Conducted on March 5, 2020		
69	71	
1 and you can present your opinion any way that you	1 to privilege to the bottom of it. There is nothing	
2 want it. I'm quite confident on how the courts	2 in there.	
3 view privilege and the question that he's	3 MR. SHOREMAN: Well, you can't do that.	
4 responding to is not redacted.	4 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, Mr. Shoreman	
5 MR. SHOREMAN: They don't allow you to	5 you can reserve your objections. I'm not	
6 use privilege as a shield and a sword.	6 MR. SHOREMAN: You can't give it to me	
7 MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Shoreman, I'm	7 and then reserve your right to privilege.	
8 going to continue. You can raise your objections	8 MS. KATSANTONIS: You have it.	
9 at the appropriate time.	9 MR. WILLIAMS: Inadvertent disclosure.	
10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm not going to	
11 Q. So looking at this document, you can	11 fight with you. You can use it you can say	
12 see that Mr. Sussman asked you whether the	12 whatever you want to the Court. I'm going to	
13 detainees showed up for hearings and you respond.	13 continue my deposition.	
MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.	MR. PHILLIPS: I'd just like to put on	
MR. SHOREMAN: Objection.	15 the record that I did, in fact, hand the document	
MR. PHILLIPS: I'm just flying a flag.	16 back to Mr. Katsantonis.	
MR. SHOREMAN: Let me state for the	MS. KATSANTONIS: In any event, we're	
18 record, you say Mr. Sussman asked him, then why is	18 not waiving our privilege, and we're looking at the	
19 it redacted? Because it appears that	19 factual information at the top of this e-mail.	
MS. KATSANTONIS: The question is not	20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	
21 redacted.	21 Q. And this is is this an accurate	
MR. SHOREMAN: You said Mr. Sussman	22 statement of your understanding of the Nexus	
70	72	
1 asked him.	1 program based on representations made to you by	
2 MS. KATSANTONIS: That's what's on the	2 Nexus?	
3 e-mail.	3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can	
4 MR. PHILLIPS: Do we have another copy?	4 answer.	
5 MS. KATSANTONIS: Not redacted.	5 A. Well, I don't recall the actual — the	
6 MR. SHOREMAN: But he's responding to	6 actual data in here, but this is my e-mail, so I	
7 Mr. Austin.	7 presume that I gathered this from other parties in	
8 MS. KATSANTONIS: No, he's not.	8 the process.	
9 MR. SHOREMAN: But Mr. Sussman's name	9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	
10 is on this.	10 Q. Right. You have no reason to I	
11 MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Shoreman,	11 mean, to the best of your recollection, this was an	
12 reserve Mr. Shoreman, you can reserve your	12 accurate reflection of information provided to you	
13 objections. You have a copy of the document in	13 by Nexus?	
14 your records.	MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and	
MR. SHOREMAN: Your use of this is	15 answered. You can answer again.	
16 improper. I have a copy of the document in my	16 A. I presume so.	
17 records because you just said that you wanted it	17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	
18 back because it was inadvertently produced. So I	18 Q. Okay. And I guess when you say	
19 don't have a copy in my records. We had to give it	19 presume, to the best of your knowledge, correct?	
20 back to you.	20 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.	
MS. KATSANTONIS: We can in this one.	21 Q. Okay. And then one statement in here	
20 771		

22 says near the bottom it says your current agent has

22 This is a privilege -- we are reserving our right

19 (73 to 76)

75

76

1 raved how well the program has run.

Do you know who the agent is you're referencing there? Was that Big Marco or someone

4 else?

5 A. I don't recall, but my guess would be 6 Marco.

7 Q. Okay.

8 (Deposition Exhibit 8 marked

9 for identification.)

10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

11 Q. The document I provided --

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. Could I have

13 just a moment to review?

MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure.

15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

16 Q. This is a document dated June 26, 2015, 17 from you to Mr. Nagel at Nexus. And is this your 18 e-mail?

19 A. Presumably, yes.

20 Q. And you keep saying presumably. I

21 guess to the best of your understanding?

22 A. I'm sorry.

Q. You have no reason to doubt it?

2 A. Yes. I'm sorry. To the best of my 3 knowledge.

4 Q. Right. If I hand you an e-mail that 5 you don't think is yours, tell me.

6 A. Okay.

7 MR. PHILLIPS: I'll object to that

8 instruction.

9 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, I'm not 10 trying -- you know, we can go --

MR. PHILLIPS: I don't want it to be

12 that it's going to be assumed that he remembers

13 unless he physically says that he doesn't remember.

MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm not trying to do 15 that. I apologize.

MR. PHILLIPS: Just for the record.

17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

18 Q. So in June of 2015, you provided Nexus 19 with the standard surety indemnity agreement for 20 Nexus to complete prior to issuing any bonds on -- 21 at its request, right?

22 A. Again, I believe so.

Q. Right. And to the best of your

2 knowledge, is this a standard indemnity agreement

3 used by RLI?

4 A. Well, it was prepared by Ira or -- and

5 Kirk. So I presume that they used an indemnity

6 agreement that RLI uses, yes.

7 Q. Well, have you reviewed other indemnity

8 agreements through your position at RLI?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is it to the best of your knowledge, a

11 standard agreement?

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

13 answered.

14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

15 Q. I mean, there was nothing unusual in 16 this agreement to your understanding, is there?

17 A. That I don't -- that I don't know.

18 This was not an unusual -- this was an unusual

19 program, so that's why I solicited help in

20 completing an indemnity agreement that the RLI

21 claim handlers were comfortable with. And so they

22 structured this agreement for me to pass it along

74 1 to Nexus.

Q. Okay. And in looking at it, you don't

know, one way or another, whether it is consistent

4 with standard indemnity agreements you've used on

5 behalf of RLI?

A. I would have to have all of them laid out and time to review all of them.

8 Q. Well, you say it's standard. That's

9 why I was asking.

10 MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question

11 pending?

12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

13 Q. Well, I just -- you know, I was just

14 trying to understand.

Do you recall anything unique in the

16 drafting of this indemnity agreement?

17 A. Just the portion – well, one portion

18 is since Nexus was not a principal, that it had to

19 be structured a little different in that regard

20 because Nexus is the party that has agreed to

21 indemnify on behalf of the principal, so it had to

22 be structured a little bit differently.

20 (77 to 80)

1 Q. Did you see anything else different

2 other than the identification of the principal?

3 A. I don't recall.

- Q. And what about in the collateral
- 5 agreement you say that's going to be executed as we
- 6 receive the agreed upon collateral.
- 7 Is this a document that you are
- 8 familiar with that was used?

9 A. To the best of my knowledge, this is 10 the collateral agreement that was drafted to use, 11 that RLI attorneys drafted for us to use, yes.

- 2 Q. Right. And it's also called a
- 13 collateral agreement and receipt, right? So is
- 14 that to your understanding typically used upon for
- 15 receipt of collateral?

16 A. It's to acknowledge receipt of 17 collateral. If that's what you mean, yes.

- 18 Q. Yes. And that's a separate agreement 19 than the indemnity agreement, right?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. And then you listed here other
- 22 information that you would need from Nexus and
- 1 those are things that you would need before RLI
- 2 would issue bonds, right?
- A. That's what the e-mail says. So again, I don't recall it, but that's what it says.
- Q. Right. And again, you know, you're
- 6 again asking for year-end financial statements,
- 7 correct? You still wanted to understand Nexus's
- 8 financial condition?
- 9 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I think we 10 have two questions pending.
- 11 MS. KATSANTONIS: Let me change that.
- 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 13 Q. You were still requiring additional
- 14 financial information, right?

15 A. I don't recall, but that's — that is 16 listed there.

- 17 Q. Right. Right. And that RLI would need 18 the installment of collateral and the executed 19 agreement, right?
- 20 A. The first installment it says first 21 installment of collateral in the amount of 22 \$100,000. So that's what I'd indicated, yes.

- 1 Q. Right. And you also asked for the bond 2 forms.
- 3 Did you review the immigration bond
- 4 form, do you recall that?

5 A. I don't recall having reviewed it, when 6 I reviewed it. No.

- Q. I'll just show you a copy. We don't
- 8 have to mark it, but can you just tell me, do you
- 9 recall ever having reviewed a copy of this?

10 A. I believe I have, but I don't know at 11 what point.

- MS. KATSANTONIS: And I'll just mark
- 13 that so we have it for the record.
- 14 (Deposition Exhibit 9 marked
- for identification.)

16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 17 Q. Take a minute or two on this. And I
- 18 think we already talked about this, but if you look
- 19 under -- at page 5 of 6, for example, there are
- 20 different types of bonds.
- Did you have an understanding that the
- 22 bond condition upon the delivery of an alien was
- 1 the primary type of bonds issued on behalf of or at
- 2 the request of Nexus?3 (Mr. Williams entered the deposition
- 4 room.)

78

5 A. I believe so.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. And did you have a general
- 8 understanding that the condition of the bond was?
- 9 I guess we already talked about that, for the alien
- 10 to appear in court or be delivered at DHS's
- 11 request?

12 A. Yes.

- 13 Q. And did you understand that if the bond
- 14 conditions weren't met, then the penal sum of the
- 15 bond could be forfeited as liquidated damages and 16 not as a penalty?
- 17 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm going to object.
- 18 And I don't want to be accused of coaching but are
- 19 you asking him about this document because he said
- 20 that he didn't recall necessarily reviewing it or
- 21 are you asking about the general -- because we're
- 22 look at a document, right, and you're asking about

21 (81 to 84)

83 1 his general stuff. But I'm just concerned about this article at the time? words being put in his mouth. 2 I have no idea. So if you could be clear like you have 3 (Mr. Williams left the deposition 4 him looking at it and then you're asking him about 4 room.) 5 language when he said that he didn't recall looking 5 A. I presume so, but I don't recall it at 6 at it. And I -- again, I apologize for -- I don't 6 all. 7 want to be accused of coaching, but I just want to **BY MS. KATSANTONIS:** 8 make sure it's clear. Right. You wrote nice to see the MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm with you. coverage, Rick, impressive. 10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 10 A. Okay. Does that refresh your recollection Q. Did you have a general understanding 11 12 that if the principal -- if the bond obligations 12 that you reviewed it at the time? 13 were not complied with, which was to appear in I don't remember the article at all, 13 14 court or be delivered, then the bond amount could 14 no. 15 be requested by DHS as liquidated damages or Q. Well, in looking at the article, if you 15 16 look on page 30, at the top it says, at the heart 16 whatever words that you want to use, penalty? 17 of the operation is a GPS tracking bracelet. 17 A. Yes. Do you see that? 18 And do you recall at all that there 18 Q. 19 was -- as you're getting ready to set up the Yes. 19 20 program and receiving this information -- well, Q. And that's consistent with your 21 sorry. I'll get back to that. 21 understanding -- what was advised to you by Nexus This is supposed to be together. 22 that --82 84 (Deposition Exhibit 10 marked MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. for identification.) BY MS. KATSANTONIS: O. -- that the GPS tracking was a 3 MR. PHILLIPS: This is one exhibit? 4 significant part of their program? MS. KATSANTONIS: It's one exhibit, you A. That was a part of the risk mitigation, can tell by the paginations that are at the very 6 bottom. It was an attachment. correct. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Q. And did you understand if you're 8 looking at under the paragraph that's talking about So this is an e-mail chain dated 9 June 26. And in response to -- you forwarded the 9 bracelets for freedom, it talks about the device is 10 general agreement indemnity we were looking at in 10 worn at all times; was that your understanding? 11 the previous exhibit and Mr. Nagel forwarded to you 11 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm going to object. 12 an e-mail response that said thanks for the 12 He's already stated he doesn't even remember this 13 information. I talked with Mike and we'll forward 13 article. If you want to ask him about what he 14 the documents to you on Monday. Please also read 14 understands, please do. 15 the link below. One of our local newspapers wrote 15 But again I'm going to stress and --16 that I fear words are being put in his mouth like 16 a comprehensive story on Nexus. MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can 17 17 these -- whoever these reporter is words are now 18 being put in his mouth. 18 answer. 19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: A. I see it, yes. 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Q. Well, Nexus provided you this article Q. And then there is a newspaper 21 to review as part of your understanding of their 22 article -- a news article attached. Did you review 22 program, right?

22 (85 to 88)

87 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 1 back. answered. 2 MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure. No, I don't know that. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: A. MS. KATSANTONIS: 4 So does that refresh your recollection Well, they asked you to review it, that there was a bit of a delay as Nexus advised 6 you that they were switching out their GPS didn't they? 6 provider? A. Yes, I guess it appears so. And so -- and this would have been MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 9 something that you reviewed as further information Where does it say that? Is it on the 10 about Nexus in your underwriting process? 10 side? I haven't read --MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 12 answered. Q. Sure. On August 21 it says, I 13 apologize for the delay. We recently changed out 13 A. I presume it would or is that the 14 our GPS provider and we're in the process of 14 wrong -15 changing out the old GPS bracelets, this could take 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: To the best of your knowledge? 16 some time. 16 17 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 17 MR. SHOREMAN: Let me interject because And then do you recall right after this 18 these documents are marked protective order. 18 O. 19 there was a little bit of a time lag in actually 19 Vivian, I would just accept your representation 20 setting up the program because Nexus advised you 20 that you will have Mr. Sandoz sign that protective 21 they were swapping out their GPS systems? 21 order? 22 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 22 MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure. 86 88 I don't recall. 1 MR. SHOREMAN: Okay. Thank you. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 2 I don't recall. Α. 3 Q. Okay. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 3 (Deposition Exhibit 11 marked 4 4 That's fine. for identification.) 5 (Deposition Exhibit 12 marked BY MS. KATSANTONIS: for identification.) So --BY MS. KATSANTONIS: MR. PHILLIPS: Sorry. I'll just need a This is an e-mail that you wrote to 9 moment. I'd just like the record to reflect it Chris Cornelius, to the best of your knowledge; is 10 appears there is a chunk of a message missing on 10 that correct? 11 the bottom half of this RLI 334704. 11 A. MS. KATSANTONIS: It's actually not 12 12 Q. Who's Chris Cornelius? 13 missing. It's a -- it's continued on the next Chris Cornelius ran the miscellaneous 13 14 page. And I even have another version of this that 14 surety branch in Phoenix, Arizona. 15 shows the same thing. I'll show you this next one. Okay. And so the top of this e-mail is 15 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm not arguing. I'm 16 you, again, explaining your understanding of the 17 just saying for the record it appears that way. 17 Nexus program; is that right? 18 It's certainly your deposition. I'm going to read it. I'm sorry. What 18 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, let me swap out 19 was the question again? That's okay. So this e-mail sets forth 20 the exhibit so there is no question. This is the 21 same thing. 21 at the time your understanding of the Nexus 22 MR. PHILLIPS: I'll give you that one 22 program?

23 (89 to 92)

89

1 A. To the best of my knowledge.

- 2 Q. Right. And at that point in time,
- 3 you're referencing the screening. Do you remember
- 4 we talked about earlier they had a scoring system,
- 5 do you remember that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, do
- 8 you recall that they had a scoring system and they
- 9 would rate the risk of the immigrant as to, you
- 10 know, whether or not they would appear?
- 11 A. Typically so, yes.
- 12 Q. And then your understanding at that
- 13 time was that the program participants could not
- 14 have a criminal record and could not detained
- 15 because of a criminal act; is that right?
- 16 A. That may be an error. I believe they 17 could not have a criminal record. I think that's 18 what the process that Nexus went through was to 19 ensure that they didn't have a previous criminal 20 record.
- Q. Okay. And then you reference theirgreat track record of a fraction of 1 percent who
- 1 do not initially show up for court, which is with
- 2 the bond guarantees.
- 3 So you understood that the obligation
- 4 of the bond was for the principal to appear or be
- 5 delivered when required?
- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can 7 answer.
- 8 A. Yes.

9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 10 Q. Okay. And then you said when that
- 11 happens, they have the means to locate the party
- 12 and ensure they show up to the next court date or
- 13 they go back into detention.
- 14 What was your understanding of how
- 15 Nexus did that?

16 A. How they did what?

- 17 Q. What means did they have to locate --
- 18 are you referencing the GPS? They could locate the
- 19 party and ensure they show up or they could go back 20 into detention.
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 22 answer.

- A. Well, they did have GPS monitoring as
- 2 one means. They also have their sponsors that they
- 3 could call.
- 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. And did Nexus -- was it your
- 6 understanding that Nexus would continue to have the
- 7 program participants on GPS until a bond was
- 8 canceled?
- 9 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 10 Q. What was your understanding?
- 11 A. They had the GPS monitoring in place
- 12 until they were confident that they, you know, knew
- 13 the individual was -- that they would be able to
- 14 locate the individual if the individual did not
- 15 show up to court or something of that nature where
- 16 they needed to get in contact with them. No, the
- 17 GPS wasn't intended, I don't believe, to be in 18 place for the duration.
- 10 place for the duration
- 19 Q. Of the bond?
- 20 A. Of the bond, yes.
- 21 Q. So did you have a certain point in time
- 22 where you thought, you know, length of time, was

there a specific length of time that you were aware

90

- 2 of?
- 3 A. Not that I recall. I left that to 4 their judgment.
- O. Okay. But it was your understanding it
- would be in place long enough to ensure the
- 7 immigrants appearances?
- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 9 answer.

10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 11 Q. Is that right?
- 12 A. Can you repeat the question?
- 13 O. You believe that the GPS bracelets
- 14 would be worn by the immigrant long enough to
- 15 ensure the immigrants appearances in court?
- 16 A. I was relying on Nexus, yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. And right. You understood, and
- 18 I guess we've already talked about this, but that
- 19 Nexus would be taking on that obligation to ensure
- 20 that the immigrant either showed up in court or
- 21 were back in detention?
- 22 A. Yes, that's part of the risk mitigation

24 (93 to 96)

Conducted of	1 Watch 5, 2020
93	95
1 process.	November 25, 2015, between you and Mr. Nagel. And
Q. Right. Do you recall you also ordered	2 if you look at the bottom, you were providing
a D & B or Dun and Bradstreet of Nexus?	3 Mr. Nagel, once again, with items needed before we
4 A. No.	4 start the program.
5 Q. But if it's in the record, do you want	5 Do you see that?
6 to see it?	And an leading at and arguiting
7 A. I don't know what reason for, but I	7 Q. And so looking at underwriting 8 information, at that point in time, you were again
8 can.	
9 Q. You have no reason to doubt that you 10 requested a D & B?	9 advising Nexus you need the year-end financial 10 statement and the latest interim statement
11 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. That's,	11 available, correct?
12 apparently, an improper question.	
13 MS. KATSANTONIS: Why is it improper?	12 A. According to the e-mail, yes. 13 Q. Right. And that, again, you needed the
14 MR. PHILLIPS: He just told you he	14 indemnity agreement executed and the first
15 doesn't recall and then you're either show it to	15 installment of collateral, is that correct, to the
16 him to refresh his recollection	
17 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'll show it to him.	16 best of your recollection? 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I'll just
18 I was just trying to be fast. I apologize.	17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I'll just 18 make this a running one. We're way back into just
19 (Deposition Exhibit 13 marked	19 leading question after leading question. So I'll
• •	20 just make that a running objection going forward.
20 for identification.) 21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
	22 Q. Okay. But to the best of your
1 and Bradstreet report? Do you see in the middle it	1 knowledge, are these things you requested of Nexus
2 says from Dave Sandoz on November 9, 2000	2 before you could start the program; meaning, before
3 A. No, I didn't recall that I had ordered	3 you would RLI would issue bonds?
4 one.	4 A. Well, to the best of my knowledge.
5 Q. Okay. But, again, I guess you have no	5 This is what the e-mail says.
6 reason to doubt that this is an accurate record?	6 Q. Right. That's the information that you
7 A. I have no reason to doubt, yes.	7 were requesting, right?
8 (Deposition Exhibit 14 marked	8 A. Yes.
9 for identification.)	9 (Deposition Exhibit 15 marked
10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	10 for identification.)
11 Q. So to the extent some of this gets	11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
12 redundant, but I'm just trying to make sure the	12 Q. I just have a quick question on this
13 timing here the time frame.	13 e-mail
MR. PHILLIPS: Just on the record, note	MR. PHILLIPS: Hold on a minute,
15 this one is also subject to protective order.	15 please.
16 MS. KATSANTONIS: Right. Just so you	16 MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure.
17 know, Nexus had a habit of stamping each and every	17 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you.
18 document, but we'll certainly	18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
19 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm just putting it on	19 Q. Okay. In this e-mail Rick Nagel is
20 the record so my client doesn't get in trouble.	20 advising you that he talked to Mike about Marco and
21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	21 the in-house agency issue. He told me Marco will
Q. This is an e-mail chain dated	22 actually become an employee of Nexus.

25 (97 to 100)

99 Do you see that? I can't -- I don't recall. You're 1 2 Yes. 2 talking about this point in time? Α. 3 Did you have an understanding that Big 3 Q. Well--Q. Marco was to become an employee of Nexus? 4 A. In 2015? I don't recall how things were going to Well, during the bond, whether it was O. at this time or up to before you retired from RLI, get set up on that end. in that time frame, did you have an understanding Q. Okay. Did you know -- I mean, was it your understanding that Big Marco had worked with of what the relationship was? 9 Nexus prior to RLI coming into the picture? I'm not trying to pin you down to a 10 A. I don't recall, but I may have. 10 certain date or anything like that. It may be that Q. Well, you didn't know Big Marco until 11 the relationship changed. I don't know. 12 the Nexus program, right? So I'm asking, what your understanding A. Correct. 13 was during the time that you made the determination I'm going to refer to Marco LiMandri or 14 or you were involved in making the determination to Q. 15 Big Marco; is that okay? 15 issue bonds and as the program was being run, you A. Yes, I don't believe that I knew him 16 know, before your retirement? 16 17 prior. 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can Right. And -- and I think that you O. 18 answer. 19 just testified, I just want it make sure, you do Can you rephrase the question? 19 A. 20 not have an understanding of Marco's relationship 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 21 with Nexus at the time? I'm just trying to understand, like, 22 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. We can have 22 did you think Big Marco and Nexus were separate 98 100 1 his answer read back, if you want. 1 entities, did you believe that -- or that there was BY MS. KATSANTONIS: some sort of common ownership or interest, you Q. Well, do you have an understanding of know, what did you understand the relationship to Marco's relationship at this time with Nexus? be? A. Not fully, but I don't know what – I 5 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can don't know what they had planned to structure. I answer. don't recall what they had planned to structure to Can you ask one question at a time? start the program with RLI. You've got a lot of questions. Okay. And you don't know whether or 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 10 not Big Marco was an employee of Nexus? Honestly, I'm not trying to put any A. I don't believe he ever was. 11 words in -- I want you to just explain to me what 12 Q. Okay. And did you have an 12 you knew. 13 understanding as to whether Nexus had any ownership How did you view, you know -- when this 14 interest in Big Marco? 14 program was set up, it ended up that Big Marco was 15 A. I don't believe they did. 15 a collabor -- right? Did you know whether or not at this 16 Yes, Marco was the -- ultimately became 17 time Nexus and Big Marco had a common interest in 17 the posting agent for the immigration bonds. Where 18 any other entities? 18 RLI appointed the Big Marco agency, I don't 19 A. No. 19 remember the specific name. And so what, if anything, was your 20 Q. 21 understanding of the relationship between Big Marco But we appointed that agency to post 21 A.

22 bonds on behalf of the Nexus program.

22 and Nexus at this time?

26 (101 to 104)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 103 Right. And so my question is: So I 1 can't recall. Q. 2 understand that role of Big Marco. What did you Certainly, one can refresh his understand the relationship, if any, between Big 3 recollection with the documents, but I do believe Marco and Nexus? that's -- I fear for my client that words may be put in his mouth and may agree to something not A. I don't - I don't recall, but I don't think there was any formal partnership or anything 6 understanding it and it gets twisted around. So with that said, I hope everyone can with them. Okay. And your answer begs the 8 agree that I don't need to consistently object to Q. 9 question was there any informal relationship that 9 leading questions, so I will not be making those 10 you're aware of? 10 going forward with that said. I appreciate the A. Such as? 11 indulgence. 11 MS. KATSANTONIS: And the only point 12 Q. Any sort of deal between them, any kind 12 13 of, you know, business agreement that you're aware 13 that I will add to the record is that Mr. Sandoz 14 has provided affidavits on behalf of Nexus in this 14 of? 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can 15 litigation, and I think questioning -- the 16 answer. 16 questioning has been appropriate. 17 A. Not that I'm aware of. 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Are you treating my 18 client as an adverse witness, for the record? MS. KATSANTONIS: Let's change the 18 19 tape. MS. KATSANTONIS: I believe that I'm 20 MR. PHILLIPS: We're about an hour into 20 conducting this client's deposition in order to 21 facilitate the testimony. I think it's 21 the lunch hour too, just so you're aware. I don't 22 care. I always check in about an hour. 22 appropriate. 102 104 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the I think the witness could be considered videographer. We're at the conclusion of tape adverse. I prefer to continue in the manner we number one. We're going off the record at 12:05 have been going and provide a testimony. MR. PHILLIPS: So just for clarity and 4 p.m. for my notes, Mr. Sandoz -- you are not currently 5 (Recess taken.) THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going back on treating my client, Mr. Sandoz, as an adverse 6 the record at 12:15 p.m. at the start of tape witness at this time? number two. 8 MS. KATSANTONIS: I think Mr. Sandoz --9 MR. PHILLIPS: And my apologies. I 9 MR. PHILLIPS: That's a yes or no 10 just want to make sure I've really laid the basis 10 question. 11 for my objections concerning leading questions, so MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, you're not 12 I don't have to keep interrupting the flow of the 12 disposing me. But I do think Mr. Sandoz has 13 deposition here. 13 provided affidavits on behalf of Nexus in this But Rule 30(c) does say that you have 14 litigation, and I'm entitled to explore that as an 15 to examine as if at trial and Federal Rule 15 adverse witness, and I believe that the manner in 16 11(6)(11)(c) says that you're not supposed to be 16 which we have proceeded has been appropriate. 17 asking leading questions on the direct examination MR. PHILLIPS: Are you designating 17

19

21

20 do that.

18 Mr. Sandoz as an adverse witness?

22 if you're treating him as one.

MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm not required to

MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. I'm just asking

18 of a witness, except as necessary to develop that

21 don't believe that Mr. Sandoz has in any way said

22 that he can't answer questions. He says that he

I'm only mentioning this because I

19 witness's testimony.

Transcript of David Sandoz

27 (105 to 108)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 107 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm saying that he Right. Here's what I'll do. Let's Q. 2 can be treated as an adverse witness based on the make this easy, so you're not concerned or worried. fact that he has submitted affidavits in this case. I'm going to mark as Exhibit 17. 4 But I would like to proceed with my deposition. You'll see at the bottom it's -- the bottom of that e-mail and then here's your response. MR. PHILLIPS: Well with that, since he's still not an adverse witness, then the leading I'll provide that to you as well. objection is just going to be continuously made. (Deposition Exhibit 17 marked Thank you. 8 for identification.) 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 10 All right. Mr. Sandoz, do you recall 10 And I guess if you want to look at 11 that Nexus executed the general agreement of 11 Exhibit 17, so Mr. Donovan in Exhibit 16 forwarded 12 indemnity prior to our RLI issuing bonds? 12 a GIA, which is general indemnity agreement, but it Yes. 13 was not initialed and dated on the last page. And 13 A. 14 also provided a financial overview for 2015. 14 Q. Okay. 15 (Deposition Exhibit 16 marked 15 Do you see that? for identification.) 16 (Mr. Williams left deposition room.) 16 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: **17** A. Yes, I see the indemnity agreement Q. And this is a document Mr. Donovan 18 here. 19 forwarded to RLI and it was a signed indemnity 19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 20 agreement and included a 2015 financial overview. 20 And do you see how it wasn't dated or MR. PHILLIPS: Just is there anything 21 initialed on the last page? 22 with Mr. Sandoz's name on here? 22 A. Yes. 106 108 MS. KATSANTONIS: I can tell you that 1 O. So let's look at your e-mail response, the way -- when these documents were produced in which is Exhibit 17. If you want to take a minute discovery, Mr. Sandoz had retired, so the e-mails to read the top e-mail and confirm for me that that 4 automatically wrote Bart Davis when they were was an e-mail that you wrote. Mr. Sandoz's e-mails after his retirement. 5 I don't recall it, but I have no reason 6 But this was at the time frame that to believe it's not my e-mail. 7 Mr. Sandoz was dealing and you'll see there is So you're again seeking from Nexus 8 subsequent correspondence from Mr. Sandoz that their -- these documents, their financial 9 confirms this. I can put that in front of him statements, and the collateral agreement indicating 10 also. 10 the five payments of 100,000 each, correct? MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can MR. PHILLIPS: I'm just asking, so I 11 11 12 don't wonder why you're talking about an e-mail. 12 answer. MS. KATSANTONIS: Right. 13 A. 13 Yeah, that's what the document states. 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Q. Do you recall the issue that Right. And to the best of your 15 16 Mr. Donovan had not signed and dated the last page 16 recollection, that's what you required before RLI

17 would issue bonds?

18 Α. I believe so.

I'm going to do these quickly. So 19 20 there are a series of e-mails that I just want to 21 confirm.

22 All right. So -- do you recall -- so I

17 of the indemnity agreement?

20 Wednesday, January 20.

21

A. I just want to clarify this. It says

Are you saying that that's actually

19 this is to Bart Davis and then it's dated

22 supposed to be my name or that it was?

28 (109 to 112)

111 think that you testified that Nexus did provide 1 Yes. signed indemnity agreements to you. I'm sorry. 2 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question 3 MS. KATSANTONIS: Okay. 4 pending? 4 (Deposition Exhibit 20 marked BY MS. KATSANTONIS: for identification.) 5 So this is February 9, and you recall BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 7 that you received a fully executed copy of the Q. I'm handing you what has been marked as 8 indemnity agreement from Nexus on or about 8 Exhibit 20. So in response to your e-mail, Nexus 9 February 9; is that right? 9 did provide you with a 2015 year-end balance, 10 correct, balance sheet? 10 A. I don't recall, but the e-mail states, 11 you know, the e-mail - if this was the attachment 11 According to this correspondence, yes. 12 in the e-mail then yes, then I received the 12 Q. Did you assist Nexus in any way in 13 preparing this document? 13 indemnity agreement. And do you know who's handwriting, who A. No. Q. 14 15 filled out the collateral agreement? 15 Q. And then Nexus also advised you that A. No. 16 they had processed the first installment of the 16 17 Q. Amount there? 17 collateral, right? A. According to the document, it says they 18 A. No. 18 19 But what was the collateral that you 19 did, yes. Q. 20 were requesting from Nexus prior to issuing bonds? 20 O. Right. And do you recall at this time 21 did you understand -- I mean that -- what was your Initially, it appears that it was 22 \$500,000. I don't know what we wound up. 22 understanding they had processed the installment? 110 112 And you recall that Nexus did not pay A. I don't recall. Q. 1 that 500,000, correct? 2 Did you believe that meant that it O. I believe we -- it was negotiated down, 3 was -but I don't recall if you've got some e-mails or 4 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. something. I can review them. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Okay. And after -- I'm sorry. I was Q. - on its way, that a check had been 6 trying to be fast and now I'm mixing things up. executed? (Deposition Exhibits 18 and 19 Α. I don't know at the time. I can't 8 marked for identification.) 9 recall back to 2016. Well, certainly the representation of 10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 11 Q. So again, prior to RLI issuing bonds, 11 the first installment at that point -- excuse me. 12 you advised Nexus that you still needed the balance Certainly, the representation that the 12 13 sheet for 2015 as well as the first installment of 13 first installment had been processed at that point 14 collateral, correct? 14 gave you -- I mean, you believed that you were 15 A. I don't recall, but that's what the 15 proceeding under the agreements and you could start 16 e-mail says, yes. 16 executing bonds at Nexus's request? 17 Q. Right. And you have no reason to MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can 17 18 dispute the accuracy of your e-mail? I mean 18 answer, if you can. 19 that's --19 Can you ask me that again in simpler A. A. I don't know. 20 20 terms? Q. Right. That's an accurate reflection, 21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 21

22

I'm just saying, you know, you had

22 to the best of your recollection, right?

29 (113 to 116)

115

113

114

- asked, look, before we can start, we need a balance
- 2 sheet and we need your collateral. And then they
- 3 respond and say, here's our balance sheet and we've
- 4 processed the collateral.
- 5 So at that point in time, just at that
- 6 point in time, you thought Nexus had complied with
- 7 your requests before you would issue bonds?
- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and
- 9 answered.

10 A. Perhaps.

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 12 Q. Well, they had met the requirements 13 that you had laid out at that time, you understood 14 that they had met the requirements you had laid out
- 15 prior to RLI issuing bonds?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 17 answered. Along with the carrying on objection 18 leading.
- 19 A. If I had more documents to review to 20 see what all transpired, but I've got a, you know, 21 just a snapshot here, and I don't know how to 22 answer the question.

1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Okay. I'm just trying to -- I'm -- my
- 3 question really is just simple because, you know,
- 4 we saw all along you were asking for financial
- 5 statements, the executed indemnity agreement, the
- 6 collateral agreement, and collateral, right?
- 7 That's what we looked at all morning, a
- 8 series of e-mails, that's some of the things that
- 9 you were requiring before RLI was issued bonds?
- 10 MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question in
- 11 there?
- 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 13 Q. Is that correct?

14 A. Yes, there are documents in here where 15 I have asked for certain information, yes.

- 16 Q. Right. And those were all things that 17 you were asking for prior to RLI issuing bonds, 18 right?
- 19 A. I believe so.
- 20 Q. Yeah. So my question was just you then 21 asked for the financial statement and the
- 22 collateral and Nexus responded here's the financial

- 1 statement and the collateral has been processed.
- 2 And my question was based on those representations,
- 3 you believed that your requirements had been met
- 4 and RLI can start issuing bonds?
- 5 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; it's been
- 6 asked and answered; and this is very much what I
- 7 was concerned about you putting words in his mouth.
- 8 He said that he did not recall, and you just gave a
- 9 full explanation to get him to say yes, what you --
- 10 you literally used the words you understood at that
- 11 time, but he just said that he doesn't recall. So
- 12 that's the issue.
- 13 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, I asked him --
- 14 no, it's not the issue because I asked him what he
- 15 understood by the collateral had been processed,
- 16 did you think it was on its way? I asked in an
- 17 open manner. And I'm just trying to get his
- 18 understanding of when he saw these documents.

19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 20 Q. You then -- RLI started issuing bonds,
- 21 right, after receiving all of this information?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Same objections.

116

1 A. We issued bonds for them.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Right. I'm just trying to get your
- 4 understanding. You were diligent in requesting, I
- 5 need the balance sheet, and we should be able to
- 6 start tomorrow, if you can get that for the file.
- 7 If you can get that for the file. So, to me, that
- 8 reflects that you weren't going to --

9 A. Where are you at?

- 10 Q. It was page 592 at the bottom. It's a
- 11 February 9, 2016, e-mail.
- MR. PHILLIPS: So you're back on
- 13 Exhibit 19?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes. It starts with,
- 15 thanks, Mike.

16 A. If you're asking me if I called that 17 internal accountant, I don't recall.

18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 19 Q. No. My question was really more
- 20 simple. These were things that you stated that you
- 21 needed to have before you would start issuing
- 22 bonds, right? If I can get that -- we should be

Transcript of David Sandoz

30 (117 to 120)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 117 119 able to start tomorrow, if I can get that, right? 1 your recollection that you required this I'm just trying to understand -- get an information prior to starting the bond program? 3 understanding of these were requirements that you I don't recall. Everything about the 3 were setting before issuing bonds. collateral is - I don't really know what we MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question decided on the collateral issue. I don't recall that. 6 pending? BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Okay. Well, you saw the collateral Q. agreement they signed, the \$500,000 in monthly Q. Is that correct? 9 installments? It was part of the - yes, it was part 10 of the process of working with the Nexus program. 10 A. I saw the collateral agreement, right. And it provides for 500,000? Q. Right. And --11 11 Q. 12 A. I don't recall whether all of the 12 A. Yeah, somebody inserted 500,000 and I 13 information was sent. I don't. 13 don't know who. Q. Right. And then we -- I showed you the Right. But to the best of your 15 next e-mail where they do send a year-end 2015 15 recollection, at that point that's what was agreed 16 balance. And then they say Nexus advised that they 16 to? 17 processed the first installment of collateral. 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question 18 answered. 19 pending? 19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Between RLI and Nexus? 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 20 Q. So based on Nexus's e-mail, did you 21 I don't know. I don't know if that 22 believe that RLI could then start issuing bonds 22 was - it seems like that was negotiated 118 120 1 because those conditions had been met? 1 differently than \$500,000 at some point in time. I MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and don't recall when or what was done. answered. 3 Did you review any documents to prepare 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: for the deposition today? 5 No, you have them all. I don't have 5 Q. Do you recall? Can you, please, repeat the question. the RLI system. 6 A. I'm just trying to help refresh your I'm going to see if we can't assist in recollection, so I'll give you another document. that regard. 8 9 (Deposition Exhibit 21 marked 9 MR. PHILLIPS: How are you doing on 10 for identification.) 10 bathroom and food? THE WITNESS: I'm about ready if we MR. SHOREMAN: He said that he doesn't 11 12 could take a break at some point here, it would be 12 know. MR. PHILLIPS: Is this 21? 13 very nice. 13 MS. KATSANTONIS: Let's finish through 14 MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes. 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 15 this, and then we'll be at a good stopping point. So Exhibit 21, the bottom of that is 16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 17 Nexus providing the '15 -- the year-end '15 balance 17 Q. This is an e-mail dated January 28 from 18 sheet and saying we've processed the installment. 18 you to Greg Chilson and it sets forth --19 So your response is, yes, let's start tomorrow. 19 Mr. Chilson asks for details on the immigration

21

22 that?

20 program and this is your response.

Do you want to take a moment to read

20 Thanks so much for gathering all of this, and I

So my question is: Does that refresh

21 look forward to working with you.

31 (121 to 124)

123 To go through all this, could I have a 1 1:08 p.m. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: bathroom break before I go through all of this? Is that acceptable? All right. And Mr. Sandoz, I handed 4 MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes. Of course. you an e-mail that is from you to Mr. Chilson dated January 28, 2016. Is that your e-mail? THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the videographer. We're going off the record at A. I believe it is, yes. Okay. And was this e-mail summarizing, 12:42 p.m. Q. (Recess taken.) again, your understanding of Nexus Services and the 8 9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 9 information they provided to you prior to issuing 10 videographer. We're going back on the record at 10 bonds? 11 12:58 p.m. 11 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 12 Q. And did you understand that 13 Nexus -- that the -- you know, you talk about Q. I'm going to hand you what we've marked 13 14 here -- about the use of the GPS monitoring and 14 as Exhibit 22. 15 15 that the immigrant is also assigned to work with (Deposition Exhibit 22 marked 16 for identification.) 16 one of their case officers through the process 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 17 until the surety is released. This is an e-mail dated January 28, Do you see that? O. 18 19 2016. If you want to take a minute just to refresh 19 A. Yes. 20 your recollection. 20 Q. And generally that was part of your Yes, I would have to. 21 understanding as to how Nexus ran their program to 21 A. 22 MR. PHILLIPS: So the record reflects, 22 ensure the appearance of the immigrants for their 122 124 1 what my client is reviewing is actually two court cases or as required by DHS? 2 e-mails, it appears. I can't tell if they are in 2 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can chain or not. It might just be a copying error. answer. MS. KATSANTONIS: The second page is 4 A. Yeah, this may be an error because from Mr. Chilson to Mr. Sandoz and the front page 5 the -- probably wasn't worded very well. 5 6 They – the part of their process is to have their is his response. 7 client wear the ankle bracelet and they have case MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. 8 officers or folks at the office stay in contact BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 9 with them on a regular basis, which helps ensure Q. Have you had an opportunity to review 10 this e-mail, Mr. Sandoz? 10 that they will go to the Court hearing and/or to Halfway through. A. 11 the detention office for a review. 11 12 Q. Okay. Sorry. 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Q. Right. That was my question that 13 (Discussion was had off the written 14 generally you understood that Nexus, part of their 14 record.) 15 service and part of the way they stay in front of 15 MS. KATSANTONIS: Can we go off the 16 RLI was to have the immigrants wear GPS bracelets 16 record. I'm sorry. 17 and work with case workers to ensure their THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 18 appearance in court or pursuant to DHS requests; is 18 videographer. We're going to go off the record at 19 that right? 19 1:02 p.m. 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 20 (Recess taken.) THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 21 answered objection, leading. 21

22

Yes.

22 videographer. We're going back on the record at

Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020 32 (125 to 128)

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BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. And if the -- you have a sentence in
- 3 here that says this works in the vast majority of
- 4 cases and in the ones that don't, they locate the
- 5 individuals and get the agreement -- and get the
- 6 agreement to work or they have the authorities send
- 7 the party back to detention.
- 8 By they, did you mean Nexus, these are
- 9 things Nexus does in order to ensure compliance 10 with the bond requirements?
- 11 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; compound.
- 12 You got two questions.

13 A. Can you break that down for me? 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 15 Q. Well, in that sentence you talk about a 16 they person, right. You say in the ones that
- 17 don't, which is, I assume from your e-mail, that's
- 18 the people who don't show up to their hearings, you
- 19 say they locate the individual or have the
- 20 authorities send the party back to detention.
- 21 So my question was: Is that Nexus who
- 22 would do that or cause that to occur?
- A. I don't recall at the time that I wrote
- 2 this what that meant, but I do believe that they
- 3 have a department that does try to locate any of
- 4 the individuals that don't show up to their hearing
- 5 or to detention or they use an outside third party.
- 6 I don't really know the answer to that.
- Q. Who do they use to ensure that -- it's
- 8 not that the immigrant gets delivered to detention,
- 9 is that what you're referencing?
- 10 A. Yeah, I'm not sure. I was
- 11 probably I could have been confused on the 12 process as it relates to this could have been my
- 13 best guess at that time.
- 14 Q. As to how someone was delivered to 15 detention?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. And then it was your understanding that 18 Nexus had written about four million in premiums in 19 2015 and the bond default was less than 50,000; is
- 20 that right?
- 21 A. Yes, that's what I wrote here. And 22 again, I don't have any evidence of that.

- 1 Q. You mean that you don't --
- 2 A. I don't recall.
 - Q. That's to the best of your
- 4 understanding?
- 5 A. To the best of my understanding, 6 correct.
- Q. Okay. And then here it says, it talks
- 8 about they indemnify the surety and pay the loss
- 9 before the surety has to. That was consistent, I
- 10 think, with your testimony earlier today, right;
- 11 that was your understanding?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 13 A. They stand in front of the surety is 14 what I had indicated, I believe, yes.

15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 16 Q. Right. So it was your understanding 17 that Nexus would take care of bond obligations 18 before the surety so that the surety would not 19 sustain a loss?
- 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 21 A. Yes, they stand in front of the surety 22 and to make sure that ultimately the surety does

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1 not have a loss.

- 2 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
 3 Q. Okay. And then does this -- and then
- 4 do you see here that the end of the sentence, does
- 5 that refresh your recollection that you were asking
- 6 or that you understood that you were getting
- 7 500,000 in cash to hold as collateral?
- 8 A. At that point in time, it must have
- 9 the -- that was likely the understanding, but I
- 10 somehow recall that that was negotiated down, as I
- 11 mentioned. I don't really remember how it wound
- 12 up.
- Q. All right. And with regard to, I
- 14 guess, the sizes of the bonds, again, it was your
- 15 understanding the average size is about 10,000.
- 16 But most of them run -- must of the bonds run from 17 5- to 25,000?
- 18 A. That was my understanding, I believe.
- 19 Q. And then with regard to the length of
- 20 the bond, was it your understanding that the
- 21 average bond stays enforced for six months?
- 22 A. I don't recall that. That really

Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

33 (129 to 132)

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1 is — I don't believe that's accurate.

- Q. But that's what you advised RLI, other
- 3 management in RLI?
- 4 A. Again, I don't remember at the time but
- 5 I know that through the process that that
- 6 I that I don't believe it's six months —
- 7 MR. PHILLIPS: He's still answering.
- 8 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm sorry.
- 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 10 Q. I was just, I know that the -- I guess
- 11 that I'm, you know, jumping ahead. Through the
- 12 process you understood that the bonds were actually
- 13 running longer, but prior to issuing bonds, do
- 14 you -- did you have an understanding that the
- 15 average bond stays enforced from, approximately --
- 16 for, approximately, six months?
- 17 A. That word average may not be accurate. 18 I believe they, at the time, they were anywhere 19 from six months on upwards.
- 20 Q. Okay. And was this based on
- 21 information -- did you write this e-mail based on
- 22 information provided to you by Nexus?
- A. I don't recall, but I would assume that
- 2 through conversations that I gathered a lot of
- 3 background information on the program, yes.
- 4 Q. From Nexus, right?
- 5 A. From Nexus.
- 6 Q. And then at the end you say our agent
- 7 is interested in working with the sureties to get
- 8 the cases and bonds closed out, and we have added
- 9 some money incentive for them to do so.
- Do you see that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 O. And that's what we talked about
- 13 earlier, right, about paying a commission at the
- 14 end to incentivize the agent to decrease exposure
- 15 to RLI; is that right?
- 16 A. Well, to release bonds that RLI has 17 issued.
- 18 Q. Right.
- 19 A. That is the surety on it, yes.
- 20 Q. And with the release of the bonds that
- 21 means the sureties exposure would be decreased?
- 22 A. As it relates to that one particular

1 bond, yes.

- Q. Okay. Well, right but as a program as
- 3 a whole. If you've issued a thousand bonds every
- 4 bond that's released decreases the sureties risk
- 5 exposure, right?
- 6 A. At that particular point in time at
- 7 that particular day, yes. But there are always new
- 8 ones that you're considering the next day
- 9 and there's new cancelations that you're getting in 10 the next day.
- 11 Q. Yes. That is true. Okay.
- 12 (Deposition Exhibit 23 marked
- for identification.)
- 14 MS. KATSANTONIS: I was just trying to
- 15 get -- I was watching, he said until 1:30. I was
- 16 trying to get to the February 10 when we issued,
- 17 you know, when the bonds were issued. So it would
- 18 be a good stopping spot.
- MR. PHILLIPS: That's fine.
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 21 Q. And, unfortunately, I remember the
- 22 dates better than you do at this point.
- 130 1 A. That could be.
 - O. So this was an e-mail that was -- we
 - 3 looked at, if you look at the bottom of the e-mail
 - 4 on the next page, we talked about that e-mail
 - 5 earlier that these were some of the documents you
 - 6 were requesting, the financial statements, the
 - 7 indemnity agreement, and the collateral agreement
 - 8 with the payment?
 - 9 A. Yes.
 - 10 Q. Okay. And then you also then at the
 - 11 bottom of this e-mail do you recall asking
 - 12 Mr. Nagel to ensure Mr. Donovan provided the
 - 13 additional documents so that the bond program could
 - 14 get kicked off?
 - 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
 - 16 A. No, I don't remember the e-mail.
 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
 - 18 Q. Okay. But this is your e-mail, to the
 - 19 best of your recollection?
 - 20 A. This is this appears to be an
 - 21 e-mail. I have no reason to doubt that its my
 - 22 e-mail.

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34 (133 to 136)

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Q. Right. And at the end on the first

2 e-mail on the top, the last two sentences, and

- 3 that's what we had been looking at earlier today,
- 4 that you were asking for this additional
- 5 documentation and you advised Nexus as soon as you
- 6 have that data, then RLI would be prepared to start
- 7 issuing bonds, correct?
- 8 A. The last two sentences were –
- 9 Q. We are set to go Monday?
- 10 A. Yes, if we could get the remaining
- 11 information. I can't I can't say with certainty
- 12 what all that information was. It was to still be 13 provided.
- 14 Q. Okay. Well, I'm not going to have you 15 guess, obviously, but at the end of this e-mail it 16 gives the list of the GIA, the collateral, and the 17 financial statements.
- To the best of your knowledge, this was 19 an accurate e-mail that you sent?
- 20 A. This one here? Or this last one?
- 21 Q. Yes.
- 22 A. To the best of my knowledge, it
- 1 was -- yeah, I have no reason to believe that it2 was not my e-mail.
- Q. Okay. And in the middle of this first
- 4 one, you talk about coordinating the process and
- 5 getting notifications to Nexus and you say, as we
- 6 understand you'll be handling them on the surety's
- 7 behalf. Is that consistent with what we talked
- 8 about earlier, that Nexus would be standing in
- 9 front of the surety and handling any bonds notices?
- 10 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 11 answer.
- 12 A. No, I don't believe so. This is -- I
- 13 think we were prepared -- we were setting up a
- 14 process where all parties were going to have a
- 15 joint e-mail, as I recall, where if Nexus got any
- 16 kind of a notice, then RLI would be notified of
- 17 that notice as well as Big Marco. And if Big Marco
- 18 got one, we wanted to make sure that we put it in a
- 19 notification so RLI knew about it and Nexus knew 20 about it and the same with RLI.
- 21 Q. All right. And then in the middle it 22 says, we want to coordinate this process and get

- 1 these notifications in your hands right away, as we
- 2 understand you will be handling them on the
- 3 surety's behalf.
- 4 Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. So I guess that's what I was trying to 7 understand.
- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question 9 pending?

10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 11 Q. Well, did you understand that Nexus 12 would be the party, as amongst the three of you, 13 the first party that would be responding to notices 14 and ensuring the bond requirements were complied 15 with?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And did you understand that Nexus was 18 going to assign someone specifically at Nexus to 19 coordinate with RLI with regard to notices received 20 on the bonds?
- 21 A. Likely, yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. All right. Let's do one more
- 1 document and then we can break for lunch. Does 2 that work?
- 3 A. Sure.
- 4 (Deposition Exhibit 24 marked
 - for identification.)
- 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. So the back of this e-mail chain is, we
- 8 looked at a little bit earlier, which was Nexus
- 9 providing the balance sheet and advising that they
- $10\ \mathrm{had}\ \mathrm{processed}$ the collateral. That's on the second
- 11 page.
- 12 And then on the first page, at the
- 13 bottom, you have an e-mail that says, yes, let's
- 14 start tomorrow. And it says I'll be in touch to
- 15 talk to the person that you assign or currently use
- 16 to handle court notices. I don't know if that's
- 17 Erik or if you've assigned someone else?
- 18 A. Yeah, that I don't know. I don't 19 recall.
- 20 Q. Right. In reviewing this e-mail, do
- 21 you recall that Mr. Donovan did say that
- 22 Mr. Schneider would be the person to receive

Transcript of David Sandoz

35 (137 to 140)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 139 notices related to the bonds? 1 that you sent this internal e-mail, looking at Exhibit 25, around to some of the staff to explain Gosh, I don't recall. 2 3 But this e-mail at the top from you to the new program? Q. Mr. Schneider says, thanks, Erik, is there a good 4 I don't recall that. This is an e-mail time I can come out to talk with you and meet that is from Bonnie Heitman to Laura Piispanen. 6 Stephanie? I'll just take up an hour or so of your But do you see how it says, subject, 6 7 time making sure I get examples of what you ICE bonds from David Sandoz? 8 typically get and learning a bit more about your 8 Α. Yes. 9 process. 9 And then if you look back at Exhibit Q. 10 Do you see that? 10 22. 11 A. Are you talking about way up on the 11 A. It's the exact same e-mail? 12 top? 12 Q. Right. So we already went through 13 Exhibit 22, so I won't go back through all of that 13 Uh-huh. Ο. I'm sorry. I didn't read it. 14 with you. 14 A. MR. PHILLIPS: He just said that he But let me just ask you generally, if 15 15 16 you can do it off Exhibit 22, does that make you 16 didn't read it. 17 more comfortable? The document, Exhibit 22, which 17 MS. KATSANTONIS: Oh, I'm sorry. 18 you sent to Mr. Chilson, that --A. Yes. Your question? 18 19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 19 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. He didn't 20 recall. He just said he has no reason to dispute 20 Do you recall generally right after 21 starting the program of issuing bonds that you 21 it. 22 requested to meet with Nexus so you could 22 MS. KATSANTONIS: Exhibit 22? 138 140 1 understand, kind of, better the notices and the MR. PHILLIPS: He said he didn't 2 process and continue in reviewing the services recall, but he has no reason to dispute it. 3 provided by Nexus? BY MS. KATSANTONIS: A. I have no reason to believe that this All right. Well, looking at Exhibit 22, was this a document that you relayed on other isn't my e-mail, correct. 5 6 at RLI -- excuse me, is this a document in which Okay. All right. And the last document and we can -- only because it's a repeat. you relayed to others at RLI what you had learned MS. KATSANTONIS: Oh. well, let's take in your discussions with Nexus? 9 a break, and we can come back. Does that work for I don't recall. This is an e-mail to 10 you? 10 Greg Chilson. I don't recall in presuming - and I 11 have no reason to believe that it's not my e-mail, 11 THE WITNESS: Yeah, that would be 12 but I don't remember sending it anywhere else. 12 great. Okay. But do you -- you don't recall THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 14 having a conference call with any other RLI staff 14 videographer. We're going off the record at 15 1:30 p.m. 15 to talk about the immigration program? 16 (Recess taken.) 16 A. No, I don't recall it. 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: All right. This is 17 Q. When you sent this -- well, when you 18 the videographer. We're going back on the record 18 sent this at least to Mr. Chilson, were you 19 at 2:12 p.m. 19 relaying what you had learned from your

22

20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. Okay. Mr. Sandoz, do you recall as the

22 program kicked off and RLI started issuing bonds

20 discussions -- were you relaying to others at RLI

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

21 what you learned from your discussions with Nexus?

4

36 (141 to 144)

143

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142

I think we talked about that, and I

- 2 indicated that I presume so, but there may be some
- 3 things that aren't stated accurately in there.
- 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. Well, this is why I'm taking your
- deposition now. If there is something that you
- think is inaccurate, then I need you to tell me now
- so that we're clear for when we proceed in court.
- MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question
- 10 pending or are you just mocking Mr. Sandoz?
- 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. No, I'm asking him. We went through
- 13 this document, and I believe you already
- 14 testified --
- A. Can I go back to the testimony on this 16 particular document? I think I talked about the 6 17 months and the 12 or 18 - 24 month. I don't -
- Okay. Other than those things that we 19 talked about, is there anything else that you
- 20 believe is inaccurate?
- 21 A. I don't know how to answer that 22 question.
- Q. All right. Well, reading this -- I
- mean, you talked about you don't have any reason to
- doubt that that's an e-mail that you wrote,
- 4 correct?
- A. Correct.
- And typically, when you wrote an e-mail
- to -- what was Mr. Chilson's position?
- A. He had just the -- he had just taken over, I believe, the head position of RLI surety.
- Right. And when we had looked at that
- 11 e-mail of January 28, he'd asked you, if you look
- 12 at the second page of that, he'd asked you
- 13 specifically questions about the immigration bond
- 14 program, right?
- 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- A. I see the e-mail of January 25. 16
- 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Right. 18 Q.
- Where he has asked some questions and I 19
- 20 have no reason to doubt that the e-mail
- 21 wasn't that the e-mail was sent to me.
- And that -- your e-mail was the 22

1 response to Mr. Chilson; is that correct?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

answered. He already said that he doesn't recall.

- Yeah, I don't recall, but again, this
- 5 is an e-mail from me to Greg that I have no reason
- 6 to doubt that it is my e-mail.
 - BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
 - Right. And if -- and it would be your
- intention to convey accurate information to
- 10 Mr. Chilson?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. And to the best of your
- 13 knowledge, when you wrote e-mails to Mr. Chilson,
- 14 you were conveying accurate information to him?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 15
- 16 A. Yes.

17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 18 Okay.
- 19 (Deposition Exhibits 25 & 26 marked
- for identification.) 20
- 21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- I've marked 26, as Exhibit 26, an 22
- e-mail from you to Mr. Donovan copying Mr. Nagel
- advising that the program had been kicked off. And
- you're discussing a contingency agreement with
- regard to commissions; is that correct?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 6 The e-mail - I have no reason to A.
- believe that the e-mail is not mine, yes.
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Okay. So did you -- does this -- I'm
- 10 just trying to understand. We talked earlier about
- 11 what the relationship was between Big Marco and
- 12 Nexus.
- Did you have an understanding that 13
- 14 there was some sort of ownership interest between
- 15 Big Marco and Nexus?
- 16 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and
- 17 answered.
- 18 Α. I don't know if there was a
- 19 relationship, formal relationship with them as 20 mentioned.
- 21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 22 Okay. Right before lunch we were

37 (145 to 148)

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talking about Mr. Schneider and you communicating with him about notices.

3 Do you recall asking him to put

4 together a packet of documents summarizing how the

5 process works for Nexus?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But this is just --

8 (Deposition Exhibit 27 marked

9 for identification.)

10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

11 Q. So I'm -- I understand that you don't

12 recall, so I'm just trying to show you documents to

13 ensure -- to authenticate the genuineness of them

14 and to the extent they somehow refresh your memory 14 15 about something and allowing you to just keep going 15

16 through them and authenticate them as well.

17 So looking at this document, March 23,

18 you're writing to Mr. Schneider about a meeting you 19 wanted to go out to Verona to continue to learn

20 more about the Nexus business, right?

21 MR. PHILLIPS: Be sure to say yes or

22 no.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 2 Q. In the beginning you say you're looking
- 3 at some dates in early May that you can come out.
- 4 And then you're also looking for a packet of
- 5 information summarizing -- from Mr. Schneider
- 6 summarizing, basically, their process, so you can
- 7 identify documents from the Court and better
- 8 understand the immigration bond process.
- 9 Do you recall that?

10 A. I do not.

11 Q. But as far as you're -- you know this

12 is your e-mail, correct?

13 A. I have no reason to believe it's not my 14 e-mail.

15 Q. Okay.

16 (Deposition Exhibit 28 marked

for identification.)

18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

19 Q. We looked at earlier the program that

20 kicked off in about on or after February 10, do you

21 recall that in the e-mails that we were looking at?

22 A. I do not, but I believe that's the

1 approximate time frame.

Q. Okay. I'm showing you a document

dated -- an e-mail chain. At the bottom it starts

4 with March -- well the back page is started in

5 February, February 8, and the front of the chain is

dated March 28, 2016.

So I'm looking at -- if you look at

8 page 334767 at the bottom?

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. That was the e-mail at the very top

11 that we reviewed earlier today where Mr. Donovan

12 advised provided the 2015 balance sheet and advised

13 that Nexus had processed that first installment of 14 collateral.

Do you recall that we looked at that 16 earlier today?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So now I'm going to take you to the

19 very front page and near the bottom is your e-mail 20 to Mr. Nagel.

21 And you advise that you had not yet

22 received the first installment of collateral. And

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1 then you advise you had to receive it by March 31,

2 correct?

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A. Reading the e-mail, that's what it says and I have no reason to believe it's not my e-mail.

Q. Right. So do you recall that there was

6 an issue that Nexus did not make the initial

7 collateral payment as originally agreed and was

8 delayed in making any payments?

9 A. I don't recall but like I was

10 mentioning earlier, I think we – my recollection

11 is we renegotiated that and that was maybe on my 12 part.

13 The collateral wasn't — I think we're

14 focusing on this collateral thing and the

15 collateral wasn't really the primary underwriting

16 vehicle that I was looking at in doing the program.

17 As I mentioned, I was looking to

18 receive some collateral as leverage and so having

19 that collateral at a specific time wasn't

20 really - I don't know how to word it. But it

21 didn't — I apparently started the program before I

22 had the collateral. I guess that's the point that

1/10

Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

38 (149 to 152)

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1 I was trying to make.

Q. Right. Well, Nexus had advised you

3 that they were sending it when you started the

4 program, right, in that e-mail we saw at the back

5 of the chain?

6 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

7 A. Yeah, I don't know. I don't recall.

8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

9 Q. Okay. And in your e-mail at the 10 bottom, you state that you needed Mr. Nagel's help

11 because you did not receive the collateral and that

12 it is -- it has to be here by March 31, right?

13 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

15 Q. That's what you advised Nexus, correct?

16 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

17 A. That's what it says in the e-mail. It 18 says this is a reminder.

19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

20 Q. And do you recall that Nexus

21 asked -- they apologized for the delay and stated

22 they had an internal issue with the CFO and asked

1 if they could delay the payments making one on

2 April 15 and one on May 1.

3 Do you recall that?

4 A. I don't recall it.

5 O. But is that accurate to the best of

6 your knowledge?

7 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. He just said

8 that he doesn't recall it.

9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

10 Q. Well, it's his e-mail. So you don't

11 have any reason to -- I mean --

12 A. This is Rick Nagel's e-mail.

13 Q. Do you recall that -- let me just

14 change the way that I say that.

Isn't it true, to the best of your

16 knowledge, that you were advised by Nexus that they

17 had delayed in making the payment and they asked

18 whether they could make the payment of collateral

19 on April 15 and May 1?

20 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

21 answered. Objection; leading.

22 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm going to allow

1 you to have -- you can have -- as far as leading,

2 you can have a standing objection to that.

MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. Objection; asked and answered.

5 A. I believe I answered that. I don't

6 remember the circumstances.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

8 Q. Right. But you answered in your e-mail

9 I'll -- I don't know if you meant to say fend or

10 pend for April 15 installment and the May 1

11 installment, right?

12

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MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

13 A. The e-mail - I have no - I don't have

14 any reason to believe it's not my e-mail and the

15 e-mail says -

16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

17 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, it 18 accurately reflects the communications between you

19 and Nexus at this time?

20 A. Yeah, I have no doubt that these

21 are — well, I believe that the e-mail is mine and

22 I believe the e-mail below that is Rick Nagel's.

1 Q. And to the best of your recollection,

2 you were asking for -- you're continuing to ask for

3 the collateral pursuant to that collateral

4 agreement that was executed by Nexus, right?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

answered. Objection; leading.

7 A. Can you ask me the question?

8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

9 Q. Sure. At this point in March we've

10 looked at the collateral agreement that they

11 executed at Nexus that said we're going to give you

12 \$500,000, 100,000 every month, right?

So what I'm saying is as of March, you

14 still hadn't received that first installment of

15 collateral and you are continuing to require that

16 Nexus pay those collateral installment payments as

17 of March 28, 2016, correct?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.

19 A. Again, there is something in the

20 recollection that says that we renegotiated this

21 collateral, but I don't know.

22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

39 (153 to 156)

155

156

Q. Sure. Later in time.

2 A. Well, I don't know when that was. We 3 could have had phone calls on it. I don't know.

- 4 Q. Well, you would have said that here in 5 the e-mail, right?
- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- THE COURT REPORTER: Wait. Wait. One 7 8 at a time.
- 9 A. Where does it say that I already said 10 that?

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 12 Q. Well, there was a separate collateral
- 13 agreement, you wouldn't be looking here at the
- 14 bottom of, hey, I haven't received the first
- 15 installment, and I need it to be here.
- 16 And then there is discussion in your
- 17 e-mail about the first and second installment. So
- 18 at this point in time, you are still attempting to
- 19 have Nexus comply with the initial collateral
- 20 agreement, right?
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- 22 Objection; argumentative.
- A. I don't agree with that. I don't -I
- 2 don't recollect what I don't have the
- 3 recollection to know exactly what took place on
- 4 these particular in this particular time frame.
- 5 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 6 Q. Right. So the contemporaneous writing,
- 7 this e-mail, is the best understanding of what was
- 8 happening at the time, to your knowledge?
- 9 A. I don't know that.
- 10 Q. Well, you're not writing false e-mails
- 11 between you and Mr. Nagel, are you?
- 12 A. Well, you're suggesting that there has 13 been no negotiations otherwise, and I have some 14 recall that there was some renegotiating that was 15 done.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. But I just don't know the time frame.
- 18 Q. If I tell you and I can show you, you
- 19 have an e-mail in June, months later, in which you
- 20 talk about a different amount of collateral because
- 21 you still didn't receive the collateral from Nexus;
- 22 does that refresh your recollection?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. That's an

- 2 improper -- that's testimony not refreshing his
- 3 recollection by showing him a document, letting him
- 4 review it, taking it back and then asking are you
- 5 refreshed, yes or no, and then he gives his answer.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: That's what I'm asking him.
- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: But you didn't show him 9 the document. You didn't go through the steps that
- 10 are appropriate, and we'll just have to take it
- 11 that a document exists.
- 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 13 Q. You did not review any documents before 14 your testimony today?
- 15 A. I don't have access to the RLI system, 16 so no.
- MR. PHILLIPS: I would like the record
- 18 to reflect that no documents were sent for Mr. --
- 19 RLI didn't send anything to Mr. Sandoz to ask him
- 20 to review before today's deposition, just so the
- 21 record reflects that.
- 22 A. Correct.

1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Did you meet with Nexus or anyone from
- 3 Nexus or any of Nexus counsel before today?
- 4 A. No, not related to this litigation.
- 5 No.

- 6 (Deposition Exhibit 29 marked
- for identification.)
- 8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 9 Q. Okay. I showed you an e-mail dated
- 10 June 9, 2016. Does that refresh your recollection
- 11 of any change in collateral that you are -- that
- 12 you keep referring to?
- 13 A. Yes, I believe this I have no reason 14 to not believe that this is my e-mail and this is 15 the this is perhaps the renegotiated, apparent 16 renegotiated collateral amount that I asked them 17 for.
- 18 Q. Okay. So going back to the March 28 19 e-mail, as of March 28, 2016, isn't it true that 20 that point in time you had agreed with Nexus that 21 it would provide you 500,000 in collateral in five 22 monthly installments and as of March 28, 2016, it

40 (157 to 160)

159

160

1 is your position that that amount of collateral is

2 due and owing?

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.

4 Objection.

5 A. I don't recall. I don't know when we

6 had other discussions. Do you have anything that

7 shows –

8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

9 Q. I do not.

10 A. Other phone calls. Well, I'm sorry. I 11 don't know.

12 Q. No. I know that you don't know, but

13 I'm saying based on reading your own e-mail, did

14 you understand that as of March 28, 2016, you were

15 still requiring Nexus to provide you with

16 installments of \$100,000 towards the 500,000

17 collateral?

18 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

19 answered several times over. Objection; leading.

20 A. You're asking me to speculate.

21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. I'm not asking you to speculate. I'm

looking at the plain language in your e-mail.

2 A. I didn't say in there anything about

3 sending \$100,000 in collateral, so I don't know.

Q. Okay. Let me ask it this way: Were

5 you not in March 28 of 2016, requesting that Nexus

6 pay at least two installments of collateral?

7 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I'm sorry.

8 He's repeatedly said he doesn't know. If you just

9 want him to say this is his e-mail.

MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm asking what he's

11 asking for.

12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

13 Q. Aren't you asking for two installments

14 of collateral in this e-mail?

MR. PHILLIPS: And he said he doesn't

16 even remember sending the e-mail. That's the

17 problem we're having here. He said -- you want to

18 authenticate them and he said what he can about it.

19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

20 Q. In this e-mail, Mr. Sandoz, you're

21 asking Mr. Nagel for his help, right?

22 A. In the top of e-mail.

1 Q. The bottom e-mail.

A. Oh, the bottom e-mail?

Q. You say I need your help, right?

4 A. I had – yes, apparently, I reached out

5 to Rick.

Q. Right.

7 A. In this e-mail.

8 Q. And you advised him that you had not

9 received the first installment of collateral,

10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And you advised him that you needed the

13 first installment by March 31, correct?

14 A. Correct, according to the e-mail.

15 Q. And then at the top of the e-mail you

16 advised that you would accept receipt of the first 17 installment on April 15 and a second installment on

18 May 1, correct?

19 MR. PHILLIPS: Are you talking about

20 the same e-mail or a different e-mail?

MS. KATSANTONIS: Same e-mail at the

22 top.

1

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MR. PHILLIPS: That's a different

2 e-mail.

3 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm sorry. Different

4 e-mail on March 28.

5 A. I can't say with certainty what

6 collateral I was asking for. I'm sorry. This is a

7 long time ago.

8 MS. KATSANTONIS: Okay.

9 (Deposition Exhibit 30 marked

for identification.)

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

12 Q. April 18, 2016, from you to

13 Mr. Chilson. Is this your e-mail?

14 A. I have no reason to doubt that it is 15 someone else's.

16 Q. Okay. You have no reason to doubt it's 17 yours, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you advised Mr. Chilson that RLI

20 had obtained the indemnity from Nexus, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that -- that Nexus was going to

41 (161 to 164)

163

build up a collateral fund by paying 100,000 per

month up to \$500,000, correct?

It refers to buildup collateral fund, 3

4 yes.

At 100,000 per month up to 500,000, O.

correct? 6

A. That's what the e-mail says, correct.

Right. And in addition at the end of 9 that e-mail you say, I've asked that they continue 10 to pay all losses or we will use the collateral, 11 right?

12 A. Yes.

And that is your understanding that 13 O.

14 Nexus pay all losses, correct?

A. 15 Yes.

Q. And if the collateral is used, they, 16

17 being Nexus, will have to replenish it back to the

18 500,000, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 (Deposition Exhibit 31 marked

for identification.) 21

22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Do you recall whether in May 2010 Nexus

requested fewer bonds be issued on RLI paper in the

May time frame?

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. Did you say

5 May of 2010?

MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm sorry. May 2016. 6

A. No, I don't recall.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Okay. If you look at the bottom of 10 that e-mail, you were writing to Big Marco with

11 regard to ensuring that bonds be issued on the RLI 12 paper.

Do you recall that? 13

14 No, I don't. A.

15 Okay. And there is discussion in this O.

16 bottom e-mail about being a good partner with Nexus

17 and you say, and I'm looking near the bottom, it

18 says, your plan is to meet with Mr. Donovan and you

19 want to see what can be done to get things back on

20 a good track with everyone.

Do you recall what the issue was at 21

22 this time?

A. No. 1

O. Did you understand at this time that

Nexus was using other sureties to issue bonds?

4 Α. I don't recall.

And do you have -- do you recall at

this time you still had not received any collateral

from Nexus, including the April 15 or May 1

installments?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

10 A. I don't recall.

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Okay. Then looking back at the June 9 12 Q.

13 e-mail, which I showed you, which is this, right?

MR. PHILLIPS: Which exhibit? 14

15 MS. KATSANTONIS: I don't know what

16 number it is. What number is it?

17 THE WITNESS: 29. 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. Can you tell me what you recall about

20 this e-mail summarizing the meeting that you had in

21 Verona?

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22 A. I don't remember the meeting, but this

1 may have been when we negotiated the \$250,000 in

collateral. I don't recall.

Why did you negotiate? 3

MR. PHILLIPS: He hasn't finished

answering.

Whenever that meeting took place. I A.

have no idea when it was.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Right. Why did you renegotiate of

10 \$250,000 collateral -- or the 500 -- excuse me.

11 Why did you renegotiated the 500,000 in collateral?

12 Well, I don't recall, but as I had

13 alluded to before this collateral was not the

14 critical component. I was asking for some

15 collateral to use as leverage and whether that was

16 \$50,000 or 150 or 250 or 500 or whatever the amount

17 was, that was at my discretion and apparently we

18 negotiated that at a lower level.

19 After Nexus didn't pay it, right?

20 A. I don't know when it was done in the

21 process.

22 O. And certainly Mr. Chilson had asked you

3

42 (165 to 168)

167

168

about what the collateral amount was, right, prior

2 to June, that was one of the questions?

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Is there a question 4 pending then?

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

6 Q. Is that correct that you reported to

7 Mr. Chilson that you had obtained 500,000 in

8 collateral?

9 A. That I had obtained, no.

10 Q. Well, you said we are going to build

11 up -- we're going to build up to a 500,000?

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

13 A. This e-mail suggests that we were going 14 to do so, yes.

15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

16 Q. Right. And when you say for leverage, 17 can you tell me again, what do you mean by 18 leverage?

19 A. I just wanted to have some collateral 20 so — to make sure that the program was running 21 right.

If it wasn't running right, then

1 Nexus – then I had collateral to use and I could

2 have discontinued the program and used that

3 collateral for whatever purpose.

4 Q. Doesn't RLI have the right to

5 discontinue writing bonds at any time for any

6 reason?

7 A. Can you be more specific?

8 Q. Well, under the indemnity agreement

9 doesn't Nexus have the -- doesn't RLI have the 10 absolute right in its sole discretion to stop

11 issuing bonds at any time?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

13 A. Are you asking for this particular

14 program or just in general?

15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

16 Q. Sure. In this particular program.

17 A. They made the decision not to write 18 future immigration bonds at a certain point in 19 time.

20 Q. Okay. But do you recall that under the 21 indemnity agreement they had the absolute right to 22 stop writing at any time. They weren't required to

1 continue issuing bonds, right?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

A. Do you want me to review the indemnity

4 agreement?

5 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. Well, I want to get your understanding.

7 You don't think that R -- I mean, I'm just trying

8 to understand what you knew.

9 You knew that RLI could stop issuing

10 bonds at any point, right?

11 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.

12 A. They made the decision not to, so they

13 must have — the — they must have understood that.

14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

15 Q. Okay. And why don't you tell me

16 generally, and then we'll look at some more

17 documents, but what is your understanding of after

18 this program started and you started issuing -- RLI

19 started issuing bonds, which was in -- we're

20 looking at now we're in June of 2016 and you

21 retired at the end of the year, right?

22 A. Correct.

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1

Q. Okay. When was your retirement

2 effective? Was it December 31 or was it in January

3 or do you know?

4 A. I'm going to say it was the first day

or two of 2017. And I don't know the particular

6 reason for that.

Q. Okay. So what happened? So how the

8 program was running from -- you issued the bonds --

9 started issuing bonds in February, and then we saw

10 in the documents we didn't receive collateral from

11 Nexus, then what happened --

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

13 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

14 Q. -- as part of the program?

15 A. Can you ask specific questions?

16 That - I mean you're just -

17 Q. Well, did you think the program was

18 running well when it started?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And did you -- did there come a

21 point in time where RLI decided they didn't want to

22 continue writing bonds?

1

43 (169 to 172)

171

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- For Nexus at Nexus's request? 3 Q.
- Are you asking me did RLI decide to at
- some point not to write bonds for them?
- Right. Q. 6
- Yes. 7 A.
- 8 Q. And do you know when that time frame
- 9 was?
- I would have to guess at it. A. 10
- Can you give me an idea of when you 11 Q.
- 12 thought it was?
- My guess is around September, October, 13 14 November of 2016.
- Okay. And what was your understanding 16 of why RLI decided not to continue issuing bonds?
- 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- Again, I'm not sure I got the full, not 18 19 again, but I'm not sure that I got the full
- 20 explanation. My recollection was I got a call from
- 21 Craig Kliethermes who indicated that they are not
- 22 interested in the program going forward.

1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. And did he provide any details to you
- in this conversation as to why RLI was not
- interested in going forward?
- I believe he didn't like the background
- on the owner.
- Q.
- Now, we were going to have Mike come in 8 8 A.
- and explain that, but Craig did not even want to 10 consider that.
- Okay. And the background was the Q. 12 criminal background of Mr. Donovan?
- 13 A. Yes.
- And were there other issues discussed 14 Q. 15 as to why the program was not a good fit for RLI?
- I don't recall. It was a pretty brief 16 17 conversation, and I believe it was on a phone call 18 and I had hoped that that there was an opportunity 19 for Nexus to come in and, you know, sit down and 20 talk about the program with Craig and any others.
- Was one of the reasons also that you 21 22 were asking RLI to start underwriting bail bonds?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Go ahead.

- Yes, Mike did want to branch out into 2
- bail bonds at some point. 3
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Mike Donovan of Nexus? O.
- 6 A. Yes.
 - And wasn't it around -- didn't you Q.
- start the process of RLI undertaking issuing bail
- 9 bonds and that was an issue that RLI relayed to you
- 10 that it did not want to do?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 11
- 12 I don't think right away they did
- 13 because I believe that they were fine with it
- 14 verbally, but it hadn't gone to all the parties 15 that it needed to.
- So in the process of waiting for that, 16 17 there was some prep work done to be in a position 18 to write bail bonds but then ultimately, they made 19 a decision that they didn't want to be in the bail
- 21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

20 bond business.

Did -- did -- who did you think needed

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- 1 to approve doing a bail bond business? Did you
- have an understanding have that? Was there anyone?
 - A. One particular person?
- 4 Q. Right. Or is it just kind of a group
 - decision?

170

3

- I don't know. I even forgot who I 6 A. worked with. It was probably Craig that I worked with.
- Q. Well, we'll go through some documents 10 and we can see a little bit more of that.
- 11 But -- going into the bail bond business was an 12 issue for RLI, right, they didn't want to do that?
- 13 Eventually they said no. A.
- Right. And that was at the same time 14 15 they said we don't want to continue the immigration 16 or bail bond business, right?
- 17 A. I don't know the timing of that, no.
- Okay. And were you also aware that RLI 18 Q. 19 had started receiving bond breach notices at that 20 time frame September, October, November?
- My recollection is there were one or 21 22 two notices, but I don't really remember what they

44 (173 to 176)

175

1 were.

- Q. Okay. And then were there talks, do
- 3 you recall there being discussions in that time
- 4 frame about RLI wanting to get out of the program
- 5 and have a new surety take over any immigration
- business -- immigration bonds? Sorry.
- Somewhere in the course of the program,
- 8 yes, they were hoping that another surety would
- 9 step in. I'm not sure. I was hoping. I don't
- 10 know about I shouldn't speak for RLI. I was
- 11 hoping that we could get another surety company
- 12 lined up for the Nexus program.
- Okay. Was there discussions about 13 14 another surety even taking over RLI's existing 15 bonds?
- A. I believe that was after I left RLI. 16 17 I'm not sure. But I believe it was.
- You don't recall having discussions 19 about having a surety replace RLI by taking over 20 the business, including existing bonds and 21 premiums?
- Yes, I do but I just don't know the 22 A.

1 time frame. I don't recall.

- Okay. All right. And looking at this
- June 9 e-mail that I presented you with?
- 4 A. Exhibit?
- 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Which exhibit?
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. I think it was 22 you said. No, I'm
- not sure. It's dated June 9 at the top. 8
- 9 MR. PHILLIPS: 29 perhaps?
- Yes, 29. 10 A.

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Okay. Do you recall why you had 13 discussions about -- is it about changing the 14 collateral amount?
- 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 16 answered.
- 17 A. Yeah, I've already answered that. 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- You don't remember why? Okay. In this 20 e-mail you advised that RLI could send you 50,000 21 by June 15 and 50,000 by July 15.
- 22 Do you see that?

Α. You said RLI would send us?

- Q. I'm sorry. I misspoke. Nexus. Thank 2 you for correcting me.
- 4 In your e-mail, you talked about having a reduced collateral of 250,000, right?
 - The e-mail indicates that, yes.
 - All right. And that Nexus would pay Q. 50,000 by June 15 and another 50,000 by July 15,
- 9 right?
- 10 A. That's what the e-mail states, yes.
- Right. And then you talk about using a 11 12 5 percent year-end contingency money to fund the 13 rest of the collateral.
- 14 Do you see that?
- 15 Yes, I see it.
- 16 What did your -- what did you mean by Ο. 17 using the contingency money to fund the rest of the 18 collateral?
- 19 A. That is actually an error because that 20 was subject to if there was a merger or some sort 21 of partnership that — that took place between
- 22 Marco and Nexus because that money was per an

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- 1 agreement with Big Marco.
- And when you say that money, you mean 2 contingency money?
- 4 A. Yes.

- So that Big Marco could not be providing collateral on behalf of Nexus, right,
- absent some sort of relationship?
- A. Well, I don't know. I don't know how 8 9 to answer that question.
- Well, I'm saying the reason that you 11 said that was in error was because the contingency 12 monies would be owed to Big Marco, not to Nexus,
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. Right.
- And so Big Marco funds would not be 15 Q. 16 used or could not be used to provide collateral on 17 behalf of Nexus absent a separate agreement, right?
- 18 A.
- 19 And at this point in time, there was no 20 agreement that you were aware of between Big Marco 21 and Nexus for Big Marco to pay Nexus's obligations 22 of collateral, right?

45 (177 to 180)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 1 for time's sake, and I can do it on the record, but A. I'm not aware of one. O. Right. And at this point in time, Big 2 if he wants to look at that, I'll give you that as Marco did not agree to this -- to using his well. contingency to pay any Nexus collateral, correct? 4 MR. PHILLIPS: So are we off the I'm not sure he was even aware of it. 5 record? I didn't copy him on this e-mail, I don't believe. THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the All right. And then you see at the top videographer. We're going off the record at 3:07 8 it says I have -- this is from Mr. Donovan, he p.m. at the end of tape number two. 9 says, I have numbers for you from our other 9 (Deposition Exhibit 33 marked 10 conversation. 10 for identification.) Do you see that? THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 11 11 12 A. Yes. 12 videographer. We're going back on the record at 13 Was that about the bail bond business? 133:11 p.m. at the start of tape number three. O. I don't recall. I have no idea. 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 14 A. Okay. And we talked about and I don't 15 Okay. I had provided you, Mr. Sandoz, 16 know if you need to see, but RLI started receiving 16 if you look at the subject line of what you're 17 bond breach notices at least in as of July 2016, if 17 sending to Mr. Schneider, it gives a bond number 18 not sooner. 18 and a name but I don't really need to read on the 19 Do you recall that? 19 record. 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 20 And if you look at the other document I 21 showed you, it's the same name. I'm just not 21 A. No. 22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 22 reading the name for privacy purposes. We could 178 180 1 say GMR? Q. Okay. (Deposition Exhibit 32 marked 2 A. Okay. Yes. 3 for identification.) So does that refresh your recollection 3 O. MR. PHILLIPS: Just for the record, I that what you were providing Mr. Schneider was 5 would note this one also says protective order. copies of a bond breach notice for GMR? MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure. 6 It doesn't refresh my memory but it BY MS. KATSANTONIS: appears, you know, I have no reason to believe that Q. And this -- and I don't have the this was not what was sent. 9 attachment and I apologize, but do you recall 9 Right. Do you recall that -- and then 10 providing Mr. Schneider with copies of bond 10 following this time frame, do you recall that in 11 breaches in July of 2016? 11 August you were having discussions, you know, with 12 A. No. 12 Mr. Donovan with regard to setting up the bail bond Okay. But you have no reason to doubt 13 program in August of 2016? 14 that you were providing Mr. Schneider with copies 14 I don't recall the time frame. 15 of bond breach notice? (Deposition Exhibit 34 marked 15 16 I have no idea what this is suggesting. 16 for identification.) 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 18 O. Does this document refresh your Q. Do you want to --19 recollection? 19

20

22

I mean, I don't have any reason to

Okay. Did you understand that the

21 believe that this is not my e-mail.

MR. SHOREMAN: Can we take a short

MS. KATSANTONIS: If you don't mind,

20

22

21 break, please?

46 (181 to 184)

183

1 process for bond breaches was you received a bond

- 2 breach notice if the immigrant wasn't delivered or
- 3 appeared, then an invoice would be issued and a
- 4 payment would have to be made on the bond?
- 5 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- 6 A. I don't believe that's a -- that that's
- 7 the only options. I mean, I believe that -- so no,
- 8 the answer is no.
- 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 10 Q. What is your understanding?
- 11 A. If you get a breach notice, there can
- 12 be certain things that have taken place that may
- 13 make the breach invalid so the principal would have
- 14 the right to correct that. It's not an immediate
- 15 default and the bond has to be paid.
- 16 Q. Did you have an understanding that once 17 an invoice is issued that that would have to be 18 paid?
- 19 A. A final invoice? I mean --
- 20 Q. Well, how do you define a final
- 21 invoice?
- 22 A. Well, how do you define an invoice?
- 1 Q. Well, I'll show you an invoice, and you 2 can tell me.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 (Deposition Exhibit 35 marked
- 5 for identification.)
- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. Just so I
- 7 know, are you saying the invoice on the third page?
- 8 MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes, you're right.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 11 Q. So looking at that invoice, did you
- 12 understand that unless an -- that an invoice would
- 13 be required to be paid if presented to RLI?
- 14 A. Again, can I read through this15 correspondence because is this correspondence16 disputing the invoice?
- 17 Q. Well, I just want to have a general 18 understanding. I'm not trying to look at something 19 in particular. We can go through one. But do 20 you --
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: For what it's worth, if
- 22 Mr. Sandoz needs to review the correspondence to

- 1 figure out what's going on to answer your question,
- 2 I think he should.
 - If you have a different question that
- 4 might fix the issue, if we're trying to move things
- 5 along.
- 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
 - Q. Well, yeah. Let's move on from that.
- 8 But you recall at this point in time an invoice had
- 9 been issued, right?
- 10 A. The correspondence shows an invoice, 11 yes, dated August 25.
- 12 Q. All right. And in September, you were 13 still having discussions about doing a bail bond 14 program with Nexus, correct?
- 15 A. In September. I don't know.
- 16 (Deposition Exhibit 36 marked
- for identification.)
- 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 19 Q. Well, I'm showing you this e-mail.
- 20 Does that refresh your recollection? And this is
- 21 September of -- 10th of 2016.
- 22 A. This reflects that we were working on

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- 1 the bail bond program at that time.
 - Q. Right.
- 3 A. Is that your question?
- 4 Q. Yes.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. In September. And was that going to be 7 called Empower? What was Empower, do you recall
 - that?
- 0 that:

- 9 A. I believe Empower was the bail bond 10 program that Nexus named it.
- 11 Q. Right. And you met with Mr. Donovan 12 and Nexus in Orlando to discuss the bail bond 13 program?
- 14 A. I went to Orlando to they had an all 15 company meeting, but I believe that we did talk 16 about the bail bond program when we were down 17 there.
- 18 Q. Do you also recall in September that
- 19 Nexus was late in paying premiums for the bonds -- 20 the immigration bonds that were issued.
- 21 Do you recall that issue?
- 22 A. No.

47 (185 to 188)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 185 187 (Deposition Exhibit 37 marked I don't recall sending it, no. A. 1 for identification.) 2 Q. 3 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 3 But I'm not arguing that it's my A. Is that an e-mail that you sent? 4 e-mail. I have no reason to believe it's not an Do you -- did you -- do you know whether or not Mr. Donovan provided a response to e-mail that I sent. that e-mail? And does that reflect there are issues Q. with timely payment of premiums in September of A. 8 I do not. 9 2016? 9 O. Okay. A. It appears to indicate that that is 10 I do believe that he was like I had 10 A. 11 paid through June. 11 mentioned, that he wanted to come in and talk to 12 Q. As of September, right? 12 the - Kliethermes and some of the others. And I The e-mail is September 13, yes. 13 believe it was about this. And the discontinuation 13 A. Right. And it was important to ensure 14 of their decision not to write bail and to 14 Q. 15 that the premiums were received on time. At this 15 immigration. 16 point there was -- Nexus was late in paying 16 Q. Right. Do you recall -- and I'm not 17 premiums to the best of your recollection? 17 going to hold you to it, but you -- you talked to 18 Nexus and advised them that RLI was intending not MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; compound. 19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 19 to continue to issue bonds and wanted to cease and 20 Q. Is that correct? 20 revert to their immigration bond program? I believe I delivered that message, 21 A. It appears. I don't know. 21 22 (Deposition Exhibit 38 marked 22 yes. 188 186 for identification.) 1 And you don't -- and did you advise BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Nexus that RLI wanted a new surety to take over the program and to also take over the existing bonds? This is an e-mail dated September 28, 2016. Do you recall sending this e-mail to 4 I don't recall, but I wanted to see if Mr. Donovan? 5 I could help him transition the business. And why was that? A. No. 6 Q. 6 Okay. And do you recall that around Because I - I believed in the program the September 28 time frame that you had some and it was in RLI's best interest that I find information regarding Mr. Donovan's background? help him find another surety company. 10 I don't recall the - you're too 10 So for financial reasons for RLI and I 11 specific on the dates. I don't know. 11 liked the program. Why would it be in RLI's best interest? 12 I'm sorry. But you have no reason to 12 13 doubt that this was your e-mail that you sent to 13 I mean, they could stop writing the bonds any time, 14 Mr. Donovan, correct? 14 right? 15 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; compound. A. I have no reason to believe it's not my 16 e-mail. 16 Which question do you want him to answer? Q. And do you recall -- and I'm not trying 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

21 A. You mean this e-mail here?

18 to tell you to -- but do you recall sending him an

19 e-mail with his criminal background and for him to

22 Q. Yes.

20 review?

19 to have another surety take over?

Why would it be in RLI's best interest

Well, if he doesn't have another

48 (189 to 192)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 180 191 1 believe that it wasn't at or around this time, Q. Okay. I understand that. 2 (Deposition Exhibit 39 marked correct? 3 for identification.) 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. MR. SHOREMAN: Objection. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 4 MS. KATSANTONIS: I have more This is Exhibit 39. So this is in September and the subject is immigration and bail documents, guys. MR. SHOREMAN: Put them in front of programs. And you advised Mr. Chilson, I have a 8 him. 9 call in to Mike to let him know that we are no 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 10 longer a market for these product lines, right? 10 Anyway, you left -- you had put in a A. 11 call to Nexus to advise them of the same, correct? 11 Correct. 12 Q. Okay. And you advise that you wanted 12 A. At some point I did. I believe I did. 13 to get together with Mr. Chilson to assist him with 13 Right. As of September 29 you had at O. 14 the process to get a new surety for immigration and 14 least put in the call to Nexus, correct? 15 a new bail program and wind our association with 15 A. It appears so. 16 these lines as soon as possible, right? 16 Q. And, in fact, you say you and discussed 17 A. That's what the e-mail indicates. 17 Tracy, so I think Mike is going to talk to him soon Okay. So as of September, at least 29, 18 if he hasn't already. 18 Q. 19 2016, to the -- as of September 29, 2016, you had 19 Do you see that? 20 advised or you understood that RLI was going to 20 A. Yes. 21 cease the immigration bond program, right? 21 Q. Is Tracy, someone from Evergreen 22 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 22 Surety? 190 192 It appears so. A. I believe so. A. 1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Right. And so you had already had 3 Okay. And then you also discuss discussions with Nexus about transitioning your 4 that -- and you believe at or about this time you business over to Evergreen? advised Nexus of the same, correct? 5 Α. Perhaps. All right. Because it says if he I believe so. It suggests I have a Q. 6 6 hasn't already, correct? 7 call in to Mike. Maybe I hadn't relayed that 8 message yet. A call in to Mike may mean that I That's what it says, yes. 8 9 left him a message to call me. 9 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Right but to the best of your (Deposition Exhibit 40 marked 10 10 11 recollection, at or about this time you advised for identification.) 11 12 Nexus that RLI was no longer going to continue with 12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 13 the immigration bond program, correct? And I'm showing you a document and the MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. 14 e-mail from you is September 30, 2016. Do you see 14 15 I believe at some point I did talk to 15 the second e-mail from you to Mr. Donovan. And A. 16 Mike about it. I delivered that message. 16 it's ICE contact info and paperwork and you say, I 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 17 hope this information helps as the new surety takes Right around this time frame? 18 our place. 18 Q. 19 Do you see that? 19 I don't know when. A. 20 Q. But --20 A.

21

O.

I can't give you a date. I don't know.

Right, but you have no reason to

21

22

A.

Q.

So as of September 30, you had advised

22 Mr. Donovan at Nexus that -- of the intention for a

49 (193 to 196)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 195 1 new surety to take RLI's place, correct? bottom. A. I'm not sure what this means. I don't 2 That's what the e-mail says. A. 3 think I had another surety for him or anything. I 3 Okay. And do you --Q. don't -4 (Deposition Exhibit 42 marked Q. Well, you say I hope this information for identification.) helps as the new surety takes our place? BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Yeah, but I don't know if there was a And do you recall having discussions with Tracy Tucker at Evergreen to help transition new surety. I don't think there was a new surety 9 that was going to take RLI's place. the immigration bond program to Tracy's operation? 10 Well, we just talked about RLI was 10 I don't recall the discussion with him. 11 going to stop being in the program, right, the day 11 Looks like Greg Chilson called him. 12 before on the 29? 12 Q. Right. 13 13 A. I'm just saying that I don't believe (Mr. Williams entered the deposition 14 that there was another surety in place to take the 14 room.) 15 program as of this time frame here. 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Okay. Well, do you know whether or not Q. All right. So to the best of -- I 17 RLI or Nexus was using other sureties at the same 17 mean -- is this your e-mail? 18 time as RLI in issuing immigration bonds? 18 A. I have no reason to believe it's not my 19 A. As indicated, I don't remember. 19 e-mail. 20 Q. Okay. But with regard to forwarding 20 Okay. And do you recall a discussion 21 Mr. Donovan the ICE contact information and 21 with -- an internal discussion in RLI where it was 22 paperwork, do you recall whether it was to 22 determined that additional collateral would be 194 196 1 facilitate a new surety going forward? 1 required of Nexus? A. A. 2 No. 2 No. 3 (Deposition Exhibit 41 marked And do you recall that there had been for identification.) 4 further bond breach notices and past due notices by BY MS. KATSANTONIS: November of 2016? 5 This is an e-mail dated October 19, I don't - I only thought there was a 6 A. 7 2016, and the subject is monthly payment. And do couple of them by the time that I left RLI so no, I 8 you recall as of October 19, Nexus was late in don't have any more knowledge on that. 9 making premium payments? 9 (Deposition Exhibit 43 marked 10 A. I do not recall. 10 for identification.) 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: O. And this e-mail indicates that Nexus 11 12 still owed premium payments for bonds issued in I'll show you this. This is an e-mail 12 13 July, correct? 13 of November 7, 2016, and Mr. Chilson reaches out to 14 you and says, today's report reminded me to 14 A. It indicates that in the e-mail. 15 Right. And it says, in the middle, 15 schedule the collateral call and other O. 16 payments need to be made in full by the first of 16 introductions with Mike. 17 the each month as agreed or I have to suspend 17 Do you see that? 18 issuance of future business by notification to ICE, 18 Yes. 19 right? MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. I just 19 20 wanted the record to reflect the second page is 20 A. I got to find that. I don't know

22

21 where.

Q.

It's about the fifth line from the

22

21 illegible, if it matters.

MS. KATSANTONIS: You're right. It's

50 (197 to 200)

Conducted on March 5, 2020				
197	199			
1 just listing bond principals.	1 e-mail.			
2 MR. PHILLIPS: I just want it on the 3 record.	Q. Okay. If you want to a minute to read			
3 record. 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	3 it.			
	4 A. Please.			
5 Q. Do you recall so you don't recall 6 that there was a discussion about	5 MS. KATSANTONIS: Is there some sort of			
	6 the privilege between the two of you?			
7 A. Correct. I don't know if that ever	7 MR. PHILLIPS: No, not that I'm aware 8 of.			
8 took place.9 (Deposition Exhibit 44 marked)	8 of.9 MS. KATSANTONIS: Can I read that note?			
10 for identification.)	10 MR. SHOREMAN: No, you may not.			
11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	11 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, it's not a			
12 Q. This is an e-mail dated November 9, but	12 privilege communication.			
13 the bottom e-mail is November 8.	13 MR. SHOREMAN: So ask for a discovery.			
14 On the November 8 e-mail to	14 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, I'm going to			
15 Mr. Donovan, you asked him if he had availability	15 ask on the record if you're passing notes and it's			
16 to join a conference call about the program	16 not a privileged communication, then I'm entitled			
17 tomorrow, correct?	17 to read it.			
18 A. According to the e-mail, that's what it	18 MR. SHOREMAN: No, you're not.			
19 says.	19 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm entitled to			
20 Q. This is your e-mail, correct?	20 review that noted unless you're asserting some sort			
21 A. I have no reason to believe it's not.	21 of privilege.			
22 Q. Okay. And you advised that the	22 MR. SHOREMAN: I am. Personal			
198	200			
1 conference call is related to transiting the	1 privilege.			
2 program to new surety and any progress made in that	2 MS. KATSANTONIS: There is no personal			
3 regard and thoughts we have as the program winds	3 privilege.			
4 down, correct?	4 MR. SHOREMAN: Yes, there is.			
5 A. Correct.	5 MS. KATSANTONIS: We're in the middle			
6 Q. So so at this point in time in	6 of a deposition and counsel I want the record to			
7 November, clearly Nexus you had advised Nexus	7 reflect that counsel for Mr. Sandoz passed a note			
8 that the bond program would need to be transitioned	8 for counsel for Nexus			
9 to a new surety, right?	9 MR. SHOREMAN: Call the judge.			
10 A. It appears so.	10 MS. KATSANTONIS: Regarding			
11 (Deposition Exhibit 45 marked	11 the deposition.			
for identification.)	MR. SHOREMAN: Call the judge.			
MR. PHILLIPS: Just for the record,	MS. KATSANTONIS: Are you			
14 both 44 and 45 have the protective order language.	MR. SHOREMAN: I'm refusing to give you			
15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:	15 that note. It's of a personal nature. Call the			
16 Q. Okay. This is an e-mail dated	16 judge.			
17 September 7 from you to Mr. Donovan and	MS. KATSANTONIS: It's of a personal			
18 Mr. Chilson's copied on. The subject is a	18 nature, not related at all to any of this			
19 conference call a few weeks ago.	19 deposition.			
20 Do you recall well, first of all, is	20 MR. SHOREMAN: Call the judge.			
21 this your e-mail?	21 MS. KATSANTONIS: Do you want me are			
22 A. I have no reason to believe it's not my	22 you going to answer my question on the record?			

51 (201 to 204)

203

204

MR. SHOREMAN: I'm saying I will not 2 give you that note.

3 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, I'm asking you

- does it have to do with the testimony that we're in
- 5 the middle of?
- 6 MR. SHOREMAN: I'm not going to answer 7 your questions.
- 8 MS. KATSANTONIS: So then it does. So
- 9 we'll -- well, during a break I will call the 10 judge.
- MR. SHOREMAN: Good. What's his name?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: And I would ask that
- 13 counsel not destroy the e-mail or the note.
- MR. SHOREMAN: What's the name of the 15 judge that has jurisdiction?
- 16 MR. PHILLIPS: It could be any of five 17 of them.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: I'll make sure that
- 19 the Western District of Virginia is aware of it.
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 21 Q. Mr. Sandoz, have you had a chance to 22 review this e-mail? Are you still reading it?

- 1 Q. Well, let me ask it a different way.
- 2 Okay.
- 3 Do you have any recollection as to why
- 4 a collateral was being requested of a 1,250,000?
- 5 A. I believe I can tell you that I did
- 6 not come up with that figure. I believe that was
- 7 something that I was anointed to pass along to
- 8 Nexus. I don't know who made that decision, 9 though. I don't.
- 10 Q. Okay. And looking at this e-mail, one
- 11 of the things it says at the beginning it talks
- 12 about transiting the program to another surety,
- 13 correct?

14 A. It talks about transitioning the 15 program to another surety.

- 16 Q. All right. And then it also talks
- 17 about when RLI additionally agreed to underwrite
- 18 the program, it believed that the bond term would
- 19 be shorter in length and that the company prefers
- 20 the business to be transactional short tail
- 21 obligations.

202

1

Do you see that?

A. Yes, I got kind of distracted. I'm

- 2 sorry.
- 3 MR. PHILLIPS: In the future, can we
- 4 get two copies of documents so my notes, as I'm
- 5 trying to put notes on the things that you hand us
- 6 and we have to share our exhibits over here,
- 7 because I see that you have extra ones in there.
- 8 So just in the future can we get one for me and one
- 9 for counsel?
- 10 MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure.
- 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 12 Q. Have you had a chance to review that?
- 13 A. I have. I may need to refer to it.
- 14 Q. And so does that e-mail refresh your 15 recollection that RLI requested additional 16 collateral?
- 17 A. I don't recall that, but that's what it 18 states in the e-mail.
- 19 Q. Okay. So is it true that other than 20 just reading this e-mail you don't recall any of 21 the substance of this e-mail at all?
- 22 A. Any of the substance of the e-mail?

- A. Yes, and I believe that came from
- 2 across the street. Craig Kliethermes or
- 3 individuals.
- 4 O. Or Mr. Chilson?
- 5 A. It could have been.
 - Q. Okay. So --
- 7 A. I doubt it because Greg writes very
- 8 long tail business and so I would suggest that it
- 9 was probably the home office.
- 10 Q. So basically, the home office
- 11 determination that it would prefer to bond short
- 12 tail obligations; is that what you're saying? I'm
- 13 just trying to understand.
- 14 A. I think any insurance company wants to
- 15 write -- I shouldn't say any, but a lot of
- 16 insurance companies want to write short -- as short 17 of tail obligations as possible.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. It doesn't mean that longer tail
- 20 obligations are bad in any way.
- 21 Q. Okay. Do you recall -- all right. And
- 22 then it says, it talks about the 500,000 in

52 (205 to 208)

207

205

- 1 collateral that was initially required and it is
- 2 RLI's position that since the length of the bonds
- 3 is longer, that there is more exposure, right?
- 4 A. Can we go over what does -- what is
- 5 you're definition of exposure? Because my
- 6 definition of exposure is when you have a breach,
- 7 there is exposure to RLI and, for example if you
- 8 write a \$25,000 bond and you have a \$25,000 breach
- 9 the exposure to RLI is \$25,000 and we're
- 10 asking -- we were asking Nexus to stand in front of 11 that \$25,000 exposure.
- 12 Q. Okay. And so --
- 13 A. And I don't know if your definition may 14 be a lot different than that. I'm just trying to 15 clarify.
- 16 Q. No. I appreciate that. What you're 17 saying is if there is a breach and it's for 18 \$25,000 --
- 19 A. And it must be paid then that's the 20 exposure that RLI has where we asked Nexus to step 21 in front of and address.
- 22 Q. Well, I think here let's look at what

1 you're saying here because you actually define, I

- 2 think, you say what you mean by exposure here.
- First of all you say it looks like the
- 4 average length of exposure runs more than one year.
- 5 As our records only show 19 bonds exonerated to
- 6 date.
- 7 Do you see that?
- 8 A. So a particular bond has \$25,000 of 9 exposure. It's not going to be more. In some 10 cases it could be less. Perhaps not in the 11 immigration program, but.
- 12 Q. Well, I'm talking about -- let's stick 13 to the immigration.
- 14 At this point, there's -- here's --
- 15 let's just read this part here. You say, it looks
- 16 like the average length of exposure runs more than
- 17 one year as our records show only 19 bonds
- 18 exonerated to date. So aren't you referencing how
- 19 many bonds are -- have been issued, that are out 20 there?
- 21 A. Well, yes. But you realize that they
- 22 are spaced between when we started the program and 22

- 1 the date of this letter, right, they were not all
- 2 written a year ago.
 - Q. Right.
- 4 A. So yes, I mean they are bonds that are 5 written every month, and I don't know what those 6 numbers were and how they looked.
- Q. Well, no. You say it right here. So this is December 2016 and RLI was getting ready to exit the program, right? They were going to stop 10 issuing bonds, which they had the right to do, 11 right?
- 12 A. Which, yeah, in reading this indicates 13 that they planned to wind it down as of 14 February 28, 2017.
- 15 Q. Okay. And it says here and I'm just 16 going to read a couple of sentence and we'll talk 17 about it.
- 18 It says, it looks like the average
- 19 length of exposure runs more than one year as our
- 20 records only showed 19 bonds exonerated to date.
- 21 Due to the length of the average bond -- excuse me.
- 22 Due to the length the average bond remains

206 1 enforced, we'll need more collateral than the

- 2 500,000 initially anticipated to remain on the
- 3 program through the first few months of 2017. We
- 4 are going to need collateral amounting to 5 percent
- 5 of the total exposure RLI has outstanding at any
- 6 point in time which will be reviewed periodically.
 - RLI's current exposure is,
- 8 approximately, 25 million, so the collateral
- 9 requirement that must be met is 250.
- Do you see that?
- 11 A. Yes, I was delivering this message.
- 12 Q. All right. So with regard to the
- 13 exposure that's discussed in this e-mail, you're
- 14 talking about the amount of outstanding bonds that
- 15 RLI has issued at Nexus's behalf, correct, the
- 16 total penal sum of those outstanding bonds?
- to total penal balli of those ballatains both
- 17 A. Collectively, you mean?
- 18 Q. Right. The 25 million, that's what the
- 19 reference is, right? It says RLI's current
- 20 exposure is approximately, 25 million, right?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. And so that 25 million is referencing

4

53 (209 to 212)

211

212

209

- the outstanding bonds that RLI has issued at the
- 2 request of Nexus, right?
- 3 A. It appears so, yes.
- 4 Q. And from the information that you
- 5 had -- well, first of all from the information that
- 6 you had only 19 bonds had been exonerated to date,
- 7 right?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Do you know how many bonds had been 10 issued?
- 11 A. I do not.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. And I do believe that there are zero
 14 that ran more than one year. So again, I think
 15 that I was trying to soften the message to Nexus
 16 and deliver a message that I didn't agree with that
 17 RLI wanted off the program so I was trying to I
 18 was trying to deliver it as soft as I could.
- 19 Q. Well, RLI could stop writing bonds at 20 any time it wanted, right, we talked about that?
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 22 A. I don't know I would have to look at

210

- 1 the indemnity agreement.
- 2 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. Well, I'm happy to show you that
- 4 provision in the indemnity agreement that we looked
- 5 at earlier. But RLI -- at this point in time, had
- 6 you'd had discussions about replacing RLI existing
- 7 bonds as well with a new surety, right?
- 8 A. Can you I'm sorry. Can you state
- 9 that one more time?
- 10 Q. At this point in time, hadn't you had
- 11 discussions about replacing RLI?
- 12 A. With Nexus?
- 13 Q. Well, replacing RLI with another surety 14 who would take over RLI's existing book of 15 business?
- 16 A. I don't know. I probably don't I
 17 don't believe that's accurate. I think we were
 18 trying to transition the program to another surety.
 19 I'm not sure at this point in time whether we were
 20 talking about the next surety taking all of RLI's
 21 bonds.
- 22 Q. We'll look at that in a minute.

1 A. Okay.

Q. Here you say we're going to need 1.25

million for the 25 million exposure, right?

A. Yes.

5 Q. And then you keep -- you go on to say,

6 we know it takes time to replace the program. And

7 we assume that's a more preferable route so the

8 goal is to have a new program moved to a better fit

9 for you by 2/28 and if the program is replaced by

10 that date, it is not necessary to provide the

11 collateral. We will just hold back the contingency

12 cancelation money that you would earn if you

13 qualify for contingency.

14 What did you mean by that?

15 A. That's a good question.

16 Q. And if you keep reading it says, we'd

17 like to set up a conference call to discuss your

18 progress in replacing RLI and any help we can give

19 you. We would also like to do anything we can to

20 help manage cancelation of bonds and you mention

21 you'd put folks to the task of getting exonerations

22 on our bonds and we would like to know the progress

1 that you've made thus far.

So I'm trying to understand, let's go

3 back to the first part that I read. Can you advise

4 what you meant by, we know it takes time to replace

5 the program?

6

A. Okay. Yes.

Q. Yeah. Right. And then you say, if the

8 program is replaced by the date, it is not

9 necessary to provide the collateral. We will hold

10 back contingency cancelation money.

11 A. I would have to speculate what was

12 meant by that. I don't know. I know that we were

13 just trying to find him another home and I — and

14 we were hoping that he could do that by 2/28/17

15 because if he didn't that left a hole where he

16 didn't have a surety.

17 Maybe he had other sureties. I don't 18 know. The fear on my part was that he didn't have 19 any other surety, so I was leaving him without.

20 Q. Right. And certainly again, the

21 expectation here that you were advising, was that

22 RLI was going to need -- if it had 25 million in

Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

54 (213 to 216)

215

exposure it was going to require 1.25 million in

2 collateral at this time, right?

3 A. I believe that's what they wanted, yes, 4 from reading the e-mail.

- Q. Right. And -- okay. And it says we are going to need collateral amounting to 5 percent of the total exposure RLI has outstanding at any point in time, which will be reviewed periodically.
- 9 Do you see that, kind of in the middle 10 where they talk about the 5 percent?

11 A. Okay.

- 12 Q. Okay. So was it your understanding 13 that the message is that as long as RLI had 14 outstanding exposure, they were going to require 15 collateral of at least 5 percent at any point in 16 time?
- 17 A. Well, it's confusing because then it 18 goes on to say that if the program is replaced by 19 2/28, that collateral would not be necessary.
- 20 So, I'm sorry, I'm unclear on what that 21 meant. I don't know if RLI was going to waive the 22 collateral requirement after 2/28 or not.

1 (Mr. Williams left the deposition

2 room.)

3 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 4 Q. Well, you don't talk about waiting, you
- 5 talk about holding back contingency cancelation
- 6 money. That contingency money would be the Big
- 7 Marco money again, right?

8 A. Yes, which is in error.

9 Q. So that wouldn't make any sense, right? 10 I mean if RLI's book of business was taken over by 11 another surety, then that would make sense, right?

12 A. Can you explain that?

- 13 Q. Well, if somebody -- if another surety 14 took over RLI's existing bonds, then they wouldn't 15 require collateral because there would be no more 16 outstanding exposure, right?
- 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can go 18 ahead and answer, though.
- 19 A. I know at some point we were we 20 were — I thought that was after I had left RLI 21 that I was pursuing that for RLI. I was trying to 22 help them.

1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Well, wasn't it while you were at RLI that you were talking about forming a new surety
- 4 company?
- 5 A. I don't know the time frame in that.
- 6 That that was they -- that was a -- something that
- 7 Nexus was hopeful of and I was going to participate
- 8 in, yes.
- 9 MS. KATSANTONIS: I need more exhibit 10 labels.
- MR. PHILLIPS: Can we get two?
- 12 (Deposition Exhibit 46 marked
- for identification.)
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Is that 46?
- THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 17 Q. All right. So this is an e-mail from 18 you to Mr. Donovan. Is this your e-mail?
- 19 A. I have no reason to believe it's not, 20 correct.
- Q. And I'm not going to have you read the 22 whole thing at this point. But is this an e-mail

- 1 about setting up a new insurance company to work 2 with Nexus?
- 3 A. Yes, this was another option, longer 4 term option, yes.
- 4 term option, yes.5 Q. So looking at the second page, this new
- 6 insurance company Nexus was going to be -- I'm
 7 looking at the second bullet point. At the last
- 8 sentence, it says, I believe it's a tremendous
- 9 advantage to have Mike, Nexus own a part of the 10 insurance company.
- Do you see that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. So part of a new insurance company 14 would be with Mr. Donovan or Nexus owning a part of 15 it?
- 16 A. That was what was considered, the 17 thought on it, anyway.
- 18 Q. In November of 2016, right?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. And the next -- the third bullet point 21 talks about RLI and it says, it talks about RLI
- 22 that they have one-third of Nexus's total surety

3

9

218

5

55 (217 to 220)

219

1	premiums	that will	eventually	be moved	to this	new
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- 2 operation. And then it says that concern has been
- 3 lifted.
- 4 Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes. Who wrote this?
- 6 Q. You did.
- 7 A. Okay. I wrote it.
- Q. So do you recall having discussions
 about starting a new insurance group that would
 take over the RLI book of business, including its
- 11 existing bonds?

12 A. Yes, that was a possibility that we 13 exploring.

- 14 Q. At this time, right, the end of
- 15 November, 2016?
- 16 A. Well, I'm not sure that we did much in 17 that short of time frame, but yes it was primarily 18 after I left RLI.
- 19 Q. But as of November 30, 2016, at this 20 point there were those discussions, correct?
- 21 A. Yes, I'm sure there were.
- 22 (Deposition Exhibit 47 marked
- for identification.)
- 2 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. Do you recall at the end of December
- 4 2016, before you left, that RLI was having concerns
- 5 because they were receiving past due notices on
- 6 invoices and DHS was threatening to refer RLI to
- 7 treasury if payments weren't made on bond breaches?
- 8 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

9 A. I don't recall that, no.

10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 11 Q. Okay. Well, this is e-mail chain
- 12 between you and Ms. Piispanen regarding -- if you
- 13 look at the top, you're talking about giving Nexus
- 14 a deadline to pay in. If you look at the bottom,
- 15 there is discussion about contacting Mr. Schneider
- 16 and advising that Nexus has to pay by a certain
- 17 date because we don't want to jeopardize our
- 18 relationship with treasury.
- Do you see that?
- 20 A. Is it all in this first paragraph?
- 21 Q. And at the bottom.
- 22 A. I'm going to have to take some time to

- 1 read it.
- Q. Okay.
 - A. Okay. I've read it.
- 4 Q. Okay. So does that refresh your
- 5 recollection that there was an issue with RLI not
- 6 paying, excuse me, Nexus not paying bond breaches
- 7 and a concern of RLI that a relationship with
- 8 treasury was being jeopardized?

A. Can you break that down?

- 10 Q. Sure. Was RLI concerned about Nexus
- 11 not getting in front of it such that bond breaches
- 12 had not been -- and invoices had not been paid?
- 13 A. It appears that there was a dispute
- 14 on -- the way I'm reading this, it looks like Erik
- 15 didn't file the appeal on those two in question,
- 16 which would have given us all more time to pay them
- 17 out. Apparently, they did what they should have.
- 18 It looks like Erik was suggesting that
- 19 these individuals did make their court appearances,
- 20 but the records didn't reflect -- didn't reflect so
- 21 and so there was an issue where Nexus made sure
- 22 that they showed up at the court appearances but

1 through some record keeping ICE didn't agree with

- that is what I believe it reflects.
- 3 Q. Sure. But as a result there was going
- 4 to have to be a payment on the bond, right?
 - A. I don't know.
- 6 Q. Okay. Let me show you this. For this
- one I'm just looking at your e-mail at the bottom?
- 8 (Deposition Exhibit 48 marked
- 9 for identification.)
- MR. PHILLIPS: Are we on 48 now?
- 11 MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes.

12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 13 Q. And there is an e-mail being exchanged
- 14 between Laura Piispanan and Erik Schneider and
- 15 you're copied on it and then you interject on
- 16 December 22 and you're trying to facilitate getting
- 17 the information. And you say in the middle of it,
- 18 Mike will obviously not like paying out this or
- 19 another similar situation. And you say at the
- 20 bottom, we can't have our relationship with the
- 21 treasury jeopardized so this has to get resolved
- 22 very quickly.

56 (221 to 224)

223

224

A. Who did I write this to?

2 Q. Erik Schneider.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: I have no doubt that's

4 what it is, but I'm just trying to read it and see

5 where it says -- it's just kind a weird.

6 MS. KATSANTONIS: I know what you are

7 saying. The lawyer was writing to Mr. Schneider

8 and then Mr. Sandoz forwarded his comment and then

9 it goes to the top chain that you see.

10 A. I think are you asking about the

11 comment about Mike?

12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

13 Q. No. I'm asking if you recall that

14 there was concern -- that RLI was having concerns

15 at the end of December with regard to these bond

16 breaches and that it was impacting their

17 relationship with the government and treasury?

18 A. I don't know if it was jeopardizing 19 their relationship with treasury.

Q. But do you recall that there was

21 concerns?

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. He hasn't

1 finished his answer or maybe he did.

2 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm sorry.

3 A. I forgot what I was going to say

4 anyway.

5 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

6 Q. I'm sorry. Let me give you one more

e-mail and see, if that helps refresh your

8 recollection.

9 MR. PHILLIPS: I just know, only

10 because I saw some names in here too, that 48 has

11 the protective order language that was on there.

12 (Deposition Exhibit 49 marked

for identification.)

14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

15 Q. So looking at the bottom, December 29,

16 from you to Mr. Schneider and you're copying

17 Mr. Donovan, and you say, sorry, Erik, I have to

18 make sure everyone knows that our back is against

19 the wall and these three bonds have been called and

20 there is no more time to argue each case.

Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

1 Q. And if you look at the second page

2 Laura had listed a series of things that Nexus had

3 not responded to providing documents or further

4 confirmation with regard to those three bond

5 appeals.

And you advise in your e-mail, Mike,

7 you have to let RLI know your intentions of paying

8 the amounts demanded with checks going out no later

9 than January 4, to clear these three bonds so RLI

10 is not in danger of losing their relationship, if

11 not more, with the federal government.

Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that based on your understanding

15 that if RLI doesn't pay timely invoices, it could

16 be referred to treasury?

17 A. Yeah, I've never been involved in that 18 process but that was — I think that was relayed

19 from Ira or somebody that — like Ira was heading

20 up that.

222

21 Q. And that's Mr. Sussman, right?

22 A. Mr. Sussman. I'm sorry. Yes.

Q. And during working through this

2 program, did you have any concerns with how

3 Mr. Sussman performed his duties at RLI?

4 A. I had a good experience with Ira. I

didn't deal with him on immigration that I recall

6 to any degree. But yes, I had a good experience

7 with Ira.

8 Q. And so you said just speaking frankly

9 it won't be fun for anyone if RLI has to make these

10 payments early next week. And then you say these

11 risks have -- so I guess my question is: Are

12 these -- these are some of the bonds that you

13 recall that there were issues with prior to your

14 departure of RLI?

15 A. Yes, I think the issue here was that

16 these folks did show up to their court hearing or

17 their meeting with ICE, but due to some paperwork,

18 ICE didn't -- wouldn't acknowledge that and so

19 there was frustration on Nexus's part that that,

20 you know -- that that paperwork couldn't be cleared

21 up. I think they were trying to clear it up is my

22 recollection.

57 (225 to 228)

225 227 Right, but you were basically at this 1 after I decided to retire. 2 point in time, you realize that it had gotten far And then did -- do you recall 3 beyond past due and that the DHS was threatening Mr. Donovan advising you of RLI advising that they 4 steps against RLI including referral to treasury were no longer issuing bonds? Did he advise you of which would be detrimental to RLI. that? Do I have that correspondence that 6 A. That Mike was no longer - Nexus was no suggests that? I don't see it here. longer issuing bonds? Well, you certainly talk about our back I'm sorry. That RLI was no longer is against the wall, right, and -issuing bonds at the request of Nexus? You mean subsequent to the 2/28 date 10 I'm probably relaying information from 10 A. 11 are you referring to? 11 Laura. 12 Q. From the claims side? 12 Well, yeah, you knew that bonds would 13 not be issued from at least from February 28, 2017, From the claims side. 13 Α. Okay. 14 forward? 14 Q. MS. KATSANTONIS: All right. Let's 15 15 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 16 take a five-minute quick break. 16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 17 Does that work for you? 17 Q. Right? THE WITNESS: Yep. 18 That's the day that's shown in the 18 A. THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 19 19 e-mails. 20 videographer. We're going off the record at 4:21 20 Q. Okay. Sorry about that. (Deposition Exhibit 50 marked 21 p.m. 21 22 (Recess taken.) 22 for identification.) 228 226 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm looking for a document. Here we go. I'm going to mark this videographer. We're back on the record at 4:46 p.m. document too as Exhibit 51 that, I believe. 3 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: accompanied that document. 5 (Deposition Exhibit 51 marked Q. Okay. Great. So right before our 6 break, we were talking about there was some bond for identification.) 6 breach invoices that RLI was anxious that Nexus BY MS. KATSANTONIS: This isn't -- I'm going to advise that pay, right? 9 the attached letter to the bottom of the e-mail is A. Yes. 10 Okay. Did you -- were you involved 10 the second exhibit I gave the witness, Exhibit 51. 11 with following through to see whether Nexus Do you want this one first? Are we 12 looking at this one first? 12 actually did or did not pay those invoices after 13 December of 2016? I guess my question is Exhibit 51, 14 which is the letter -- no, I'm sorry. Yes, A. Oh, my gosh. This is December 29, and 15 Exhibit 51, do you recall receiving a copy of that 15 I was probably had everything all wrapped up for my 16 career with RLI. I don't know what day the 29th 16 letter from Nexus? 17 was. 17 So if you look at the bottom of 50, 18 Mr. Sussman is forwarding to Mr. Donovan a letter. 18 O. When did you announce that you were 19 It says, please review the attached letter and 19 going to retire from RLI?

20 comply with the request. And then you respond on

21 March -- and then on March 7 it looks like

22 Mr. Donovan forwarded you the letter.

It would be a guess, again. It was

21 probably around September or October, but I don't 22 know. It seemed like I was there quite a while

58 (229 to 232)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 229 231 Do you see that in the middle of the 1 concern related to ICE demands. Do you recall 2 that? e-mail? Yes. So I've got to read all of these 3 No. I'd left RLI by that time. 3 A. Α. two things. Q. Right. Well, you don't have to read the O. A. No, I don't remember this. letter. Do you recall the letter, the March 3 Okay. But you have no reason to doubt Q. 6 letter? that this isn't your e-mail? 8 No, I do not. I have no reason to doubt it's not my A. Α. 9 O. And with regard to the e-mail that you 9 e-mail, correct. 10 wrote, is that the e-mail that you wrote to 10 O. All right. And then after you left --11 Mr. Donovan from your hotmail account? 11 well, prior to your leaving RLI, we looked at that 12 A. The one that's dated 3/8? 12 e-mail earlier in November in which you were having O. Yes. 13 communications with Nexus about establishing a new 13 I don't know, but I would have no 14 insurance company, right? 14 A. 15 reason to believe it's not. Can you refer me to what e-mail you are 15 Q. Okay. 16 talking about? But yes, there was an e-mail in 16 17 A. Can I look at this one, though, and you 17 here somewhere. 18 asked me a question on this one. And I'm sorry, I 18 O. Well, it was dated December 1. 19 was referring to this one. Are you going to ask me some questions 19 A. That's really what I really wanted to 20 20 about that so I can - I'll -21 ask you about is Exhibit 50. I will ask you about that. I'm going 21 No, I don't remember this one. 22 to ask you about another document first. 22 230 232 You don't recall -- do you recall Did prior to your leaving -- is my mic 1 before you left that RLI was voicing concerns that 2 on? MR. PHILLIPS: No, your mic is not on. 3 Mr. Schneider had not been responsive or that Nexus 3 4 had not been responsive to RLI's request for 4 MS. KATSANTONIS: Sorry. information about the status of bonds? 5 (Deposition Exhibit 52 marked for identification.) No, I don't. 6 A. 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Okay. And it says, have you had a chance to talk to Erik and have the weekly meetings So I've handed you a document dated been established -- have the weekly telephone 9 November 16, 2016, and these are communications 10 meetings RLI established with him stopped? 10 that you were having with Mr. Donovan at Nexus from 11 your hotmail account, correct? Where are we at? I'm sorry. 11 A. 12 Q. The very top of Exhibit 50. 12 A. Correct. 13 Okay. So you're reading the first 13 And starting at -- strike that. A. In looking at this e-mail you're having 14 e-mail? 14 15 Uh-huh, at the top. 15 discussions with investors about forming a new O. You say Mike, have you had a chance to 16 insurance company to write immigration bonds, 16 17 talk to Erik and have the weekly telephone meetings 17 right? 18 RLI established with him stopped? These are the 18 A. Correct. 19 issues that we wanted to discuss in weekly calls Okay. And looking at, for example, 19 20 and get updates from Erik on as well as any 20 paragraph 4, you were advising Nexus that the 21 follow-up data supporting resolution of any 21 investors would want to do things the way -- to do

22 things that RLI is doing such as indemnity, and if

22 defaults, demand for payment or other issues of

59 (233 to 236)

235

233

1 you keep reading, premium and collateral, right?

- A. I don't think that any of the investor groups had indicated that. I don't think I talked to them until after I left RLI.
- Q. Well, this e-mail is, our attorney andI just received some feedback from two parties of
- 7 the three we talked to. We talked to Scott Lang
- 8 and Carter Smith, both of City Capital Advisors,
- 9 and both have indicated the opportunity is very
- 10 intriguing, and we expect they'll want to go the 11 next step, right?
- 12 A. Yes. I just forgot the time frame.
- 13 Q. Okay. And Sy Peck was involved and 14 he's a friend of yours?
- 15 A. He's a lawyer in Chicago.
- 16 Q. Okay. And did you enlist Mr. Peck as a 17 potential investor?
- 18 A. No, he was the lawyer involved with 19 trying to help.
- 20 Q. Well, it says in the first paragraph
- 21 that Cy may be an investor himself.
- Do you see that?
- A. Well, that may have been said but he
- 2 was not. He apparently made a subsequent decision
- 3 not to be an investor.
- Q. So can you just tell me generally about
- 5 what was this opportunity and what happened?
- 6 A. Do you have specific questions that you 7 want me to answer about it?
- 8 Q. I just want to know, so you proceeded 9 with having meetings with the investors and meeting 10 with Nexus with the investors, right?
- 11 A. I had some meetings with some possible 12 investor groups. I'm not sure if Mike Donovan was 13 there or not. He may have been, but I don't know.
- 14 I don't think so.
- 15 Q. Okay. And part of this new entity -- I
 16 guess I'm trying to understand what were you trying
 17 to create, was it an insurance company in which
 18 investors, Mr. Donovan and Big Marco would all be a
 19 part of?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. So how would it work?
- 22 A. It was just an investor group, Nexus,

- 1 and myself.
- Q. And so --
- 3 A. Marco was not the Marco agency was 4 not involved in it.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. It might have been the agent that would
- 7 be the agent of record but I don't believe that we
- 8 ever intended Marco to be involved. I could be
- 9 wrong but I don't think so.
- 10 Q. Part of this was that -- well -- in
- 11 setting this new insurance company up part of it
- 12 was that Nexus would have significant ownership,
- 13 right?
- 14 A. That is what the idea started as, yes, 15 but eventually it was determined that Nexus could 16 not be an owner of the insurance company.
- 17 Q. Okay. And what was that based on?
- 18 A. I guess some advise from lawyers
- 19 indicating that due to the past situations with
- 20 Mike that he couldn't be an owner of an insurance 21 company.
- 22 Q. When did you first learn about

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- 1 Mr. Donovan's criminal background?
 - A. I don't know. I would have to guess.
- Q. All right. We saw earlier the e-mail
- 4 that had in September 2019 that listed some of the
- 5 history of Mr. Donovan. Was it at or around that
- 6 time?

- 7 A. No. 2019?
- 8 Q. I'm sorry. 2016. We saw the e-mail.
- 9 A. No, what date?
- 10 Q. I'm sorry. It was around September of
- 11 2016, September 28 of 2016 you were forwarding
- 12 Mr. Donovan a list of some of his -- was it at or 13 about that time?
- 14 A. No. Much earlier.
- 15 Q. Okay. What did you learn about
- 16 Mr. Donovan's background; what was your 17 understanding?
- 18 A. I don't recall all of the
- 19 circumstances, but I know that he did have felony 20 or two, as I recall.
- 21 Q. Okay. But you don't recall when you
- 22 learned that information?

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- A. I believe it was through the process to
- 2 determine if we wanted to if I wanted to enter
- 3 into a business relationship with him. So it would
- 4 have been when were those dates? 2000 the
- 5 end of 2015.
- 6 Q. Did you disclose that information to
- 7 anyone at RLI?
- 8 A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. From the record it looks like RLI -10 other people at RLI didn't know until September of
 11 2016, right?
- 12 A. I don't know that. I know that that 13 the folks across the street, I believe, the folks 14 across the street did some — their own research at 15 some point in time, which is probably around that 16 September 2016 time frame.
- 17 Q. Okay. And in looking at -- I'd given 18 you a December 1 document, and I'm sorry, I don't 19 remember the -- but it talked about our agent would 20 be Marco and Claire LiMandri who owns a bail bond 21 agency in San Diego?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Did you say December 1?
- 1 MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes, the December 1,
- 2 e-mail. Do you have that?
- 3 A. Is it this one?
- 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 5 Q. Yes. If you look at the second page at 6 the top.
- 7 A. First paragraph?
- 8 Q. Yes.
- 9 A. Okay. It states that the agent will be 10 Marco and Claire LiMandri.
- 11 Q. Right. And that Nexus will or already 12 has set up a partnership with Marco?
- 13 A. It says Nexus will or has or already
 14 has set up a partnership with Marco, which never,
 15 to my knowledge, took place.
- 16 Q. Okay. So was an insurance company 17 formed?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. What -- and why not, because of the 20 issue we just talked about?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Did the investors not agree to

- 1 be a participant in forming an insurance company?
 - A. No.
 - Q. So what happened?
- 4 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. Just make
- 5 sure the record reflects that there was a
- 6 protective order entered in the Western District of
- 7 Virginia and (inaudible) to a protective order. I
- 8 don't know that we're going to actually designate
- 9 but for that, I just want to make sure it's on the 10 record.
- 11 MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure.
- 12 A. There was the one that we decided
 13 seemed to be the right fit for us was a group that
 14 owned a small surety company that wrote bail bonds
 15 out in California.
- And they liked the program and so they
 17 were going to be the surety company for the
 18 business, but it was always contingent upon them
 19 getting their treasury listing, which they didn't
 20 have, and they -- we made the application for the
 21 treasury listing and I don't remember the time
 22 frame that they did that, but we waited several,

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- 1 several months for the treasury listing and it
- 2 became, you know, likely that they were not going
- 3 to be able to get that listing.
- 4 And so there was -- we couldn't go
- 5 forward.
- 6 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 7 Q. And who was that group; what group was
- 8 that?

- 9 A. It was Philadelphia -- the name of the 10 company -- the insurance company was Philadelphia 11 Reinsurance Corporation.
- 12 Q. So was that different than there is
- 13 some e-mails that we've received from Nexus
- 14 involving City Capital. And so that's -- and there
- 15 was a, for lack of a better word, I'm going to call
- 15 was a, for lack of a oction word, I fit going to ca
- 16 it an informational gathering visit at Nexus's
- 17 campus. Is that different than Philadelphia
- 18 Reinsurance?
- 19 A. Yes, City Capital was the investment 20 banker that was helping us look for that right 21 partner.
- 22 Q. Okay. And so City Capital was involved

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Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

3

61 (241 to 244)

243

in helping locate Philadelphia Reinsurance?

- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. But ultimately, that didn't happen?
- 4 A. It didn't work out.
- 5 Q. Right. So RLI was -- after February of
- 6 2017, RLI was continuing to write bonds through
- 7 which sureties, to your knowledge?
- 8 A. I don't know. You didn't ask well, 9 never mind. You maybe want to repeat your 10 question.
- 11 Q. Well, when RLI stopped issuing bonds,
- 12 do you know who -- I mean you were working with
- 13 Nexus to form a new insurance company, right?
- 14 A. Yeah, but you refer to RLI.
- 15 Q. I'm sorry. Thank you. I do that all 16 the time. Nexus.
- Do you know which companies were
- 18 issuing bonds on behalf of Nexus after RLI's
- 19 stopped issuing bonds?
- 20 A. In what time frame?
- 21 Q. After February of 2017?
- 22 A. I do not know.
- Q. Which sureties do you know they wrote
- 2 with after February 2017?
- 3 A. I helped them arrange a relationship
- 4 with Evergreen, and I don't know when that actually
- 5 started, but I believe it wasn't until 2018. So I
- 6 don't know the -- I don't know who it was between
- 7 when RLI stopped in 2018 when Evergreen came in to
- 8 help.
- 9 Q. What other -- well, what is your --
- 10 what is your involvement with Nexus today?
- 11 A. I'm basically consulting with them to
- 12 try to make sure that they have a good home.
- 13 Q. When you say a good home?
- 14 A. A good home with a surety.
- 15 Q. And do you have a consulting agreement
- 16 with them?
- 17 A. With Nexus, no.
- 18 Q. And are you -- have you received any
- 19 sort of renumeration from Nexus?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Have you been paid by Nexus in any --
- 22 or Mike Donovan or any of its principals or any of

1 its affiliated companies?

- 2 A. Directly from them, no.
 - Q. Not directly from them or any company
- 4 that Mike Donovan or any of the officers have an
- 5 interest in?
- 6 A. No.
 - Q. And what has been your involvement with
- 8 Nexus after February of 2017?
- 9 A. Just what we discussed. I've been 10 trying to find them a permanent home for their 11 surety business.
- 12 Q. And are there any entities that you
- 13 have an interest in that Nexus, Libre, Homes, any
- 14 of their affiliated companies or any of the Nexus
- 15 officers also have an interest in?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. And what work have you done since 2017?
- 18 A. Work in the miscellaneous surety 19 industry.
- 20 Q. For who?
- 21 A. We've talked about the Nexus situation
- 22 and then I was also involved in and am involved in

- an insurance agency called Deposit Choice.
- Q. And what does Deposit Choice do?
- 3 A. Deposit Choice writes miscellaneous 4 surety business, primary related to multi-family 5 communities.
- Q. And does Deposit Choice or any of itssubsidiaries or other entities write immigration orbail bonds?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Does Deposit Choice have any
- 11 relationship with Nexus or any entity that Nexus
- 12 has, any Nexus, Nexus officer affiliates, have any
- 13 interest in?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. And let me get back to -- with regard
- 16 to City Capital, there was visits on the Nexus
- 17 campus site in which you and Nate Sandoz were
- 18 present at; is that right?
- 19 A. I believe so.
- 20 Q. And that was to review records of
- 21 Nexus?
- 22 A. It was to familiarize City Capital with

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- 1 Nexus as they were the ones that were going to go
- 2 out and talk to the investor community to try to
- 3 start an insurance company.
- Q. Okay. In your review of Nexus's
- 5 documents, did you have concern with Nexus's
- 6 financial documents?
- 7 A. Can you be more specific on that? Do 8 you have —
- 9 Q. Well, have you looked at Nexus's
- 10 financial statements and do you have concern with
- 11 regard to the accuracy of the financial statements?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. You can
- 13 answer the best that you can.
- 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 15 Q. Do you have --
- 16 A. I have reviewed Nexus's financial
- 17 statements and I know they don't have they
- 18 didn't, when they were smaller, had they didn't
- 19 have a high, in my opinion, a high-level
- 20 accountant. And so I've encouraged them to start
- 21 using an accounting firm that is a little more high
- 22 level than what they had internally. So yes, in
- 1 that regard, yes.
- Q. Do you own any interest at all in any
- 3 business or entity that Nexus has an interest in?
- 4 A. I think you've asked me that a number
- 5 of times, and no.
- 6 Q. So when you're acting as a consultant
- 7 to Nexus, you're doing it without any gain or
- 8 interest that you receive in return?
- 9 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Answer the 10 best that you can.
- 11 A. I mean, specifically, what are you
- 12 asking? You've asked me the one question a number
- 13 of times and I said no.
- 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 15 Q. Well, I just want to know if you in
- 16 consulting -- you're doing consulting work with
- 17 Nexus is what you said, right?
- 18 A. I'm doing consulting work for -- I was
- 19 doing consulting work for Philadelphia Reinsurance 20 and so, yes.
- Q. When did -- when did the consulting
- 22 work with Philadelphia Reinsurance, if at all, did

1 it end or are you still doing that?

- A. No, it was 2019.
 - Q. Okay. What part?
- 4 A. I don't know. It was probably in the
- 5 first quarter or so of 2019.
- Q. Okay. And so when you were doing that
- 7 consulting work for Philadelphia Reinsurance, were
- 8 you paid by Philadelphia Reinsurance or anybody
- 9 else?
- 10 A. Yes, that was the consulting agreement.
- 11 It was with -- so Philadelphia Reinsurance was
- 12 paying for me to try to get Philadelphia
- 13 Reinsurance Corp. ready to handle immigration
- 14 business, but we could never get there.
- 15 Q. Do you have any ownership interest in 16 any entity involved or related to the immigration 17 bond business?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 21 Q. So after the relationship with
- 22 Philadelphia Reinsurance, are you still performing
- 1 consulting work?

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. For whom?
- 4 A. For American Surety Company.
- 5 O. And is American Surety Company issuing
- 6 any immigration bonds or bail bonds?
- 7 A. Yes. They have been in that business
- 8 for a long time.
- 9 Q. And what is -- do you have an ownership 10 interest in American Surety Company?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. What is your -- what is your position
- 13 with American Surety Company?
- 14 A. I'm not working for American Surety 15 Company. I'm consulting with them.
- 16 Q. Okay. And do you have a consulting 17 agreement with them?
- 18 A. I have an expense reimbursement 19 agreement with them, yes.
- 20 Q. And is Nexus currently writing or is
- 21 Nexus currently serving as an indemnitor on
- 22 American Surety Company bonds?

3

63 (249 to 252)

251

252

1	Α.	Yes.
		1 650

- Q. For immigration and bail bonds or --
- 3 A. They are only in the immigration
- 4 business.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. As far as it relates to a surety
- 7 company. I don't know if they are doing charitable 8 funding or not.
- 9 Q. And when did American Surety Company 10 start issuing bonds on behalf of or at the request 11 of Nexus?
- 12 A. It was, I believe it was in 2019 some 13 time.
- 14 Q. Okay. And did you bring the Nexus book 15 of business to American Surety?
- 16 A. Well, I don't know what you mean by
 17 bring, but I contacted American to see if they were
 18 interested in writing more immigration business and
 19 subsequently, they went through the process of
 20 reviewing the Nexus program and determined that it
- 21 was something they were interested in.22 Q. Okay. And so you contacted American on
- behalf of Nexus to see if they would be willing to
- 2 issue immigration bonds?
- 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 4 A. I don't know if it was on behalf of
- 5 Nexus. I contacted them to see if they would be
- 6 interested in writing more immigration business and
- 7 Nexus was obviously looking for a new home.
- 8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 9 Q. Right. So you, basically, introduced
- 10 Nexus to American Surety Company or vice versa?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. I assisted with that.
- 14 Q. I feel like I've seen Deposit Choice
- 15 somewhere. Does Deposit Choice do anything related
- 16 to any of the Nexus entities or the Nexus officers?
- 17 A. No.
- MR. PHILLIPS: If we go off the record
- 19 for a second, I might be able to refresh your 20 recollection.
- ZO reconection.
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
- 22 videographer. We're going to go off the record at

- 1 5:24 p.m.
- 2 (Recess taken.)
 - THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
- 4 videographer. Going back on the record at 5:31
- 5 p.m. at the start of tape number four.
- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: Just for a
- 7 clarification, I believe Mr. Sandoz, in talking
- 8 about he or answering questions of you, about his
- 9 consulting, I believe that the clarification that's
- 10 appropriate is that Mr. Sandoz has an L.L.C. that
- 11 may, I believe, most likely to be the party that's
- 12 actually interacting with it, but it's an alter ego
- 13 situation.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Sure.
- 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 16 Q. And Mr. Sandoz, what's the name of the 17 L.L.C.?
- 18 A. Red Sky Holdings, L.L.C.
- 19 Q. And who are the L.L.C. members of Red 20 Sky Holdings?
- 21 A. Right now, it's me, and I own 99
- 22 percent, and then Nathan, my son, owns 1 percent.
 - Q. Okay. And other than you and your son,
- 2 has anyone else ever been a member of Red Sky
- 3 Holdings?

- 4 A. I think when it was initially formed,
- 5 there was -- and I don't -- you know, I would have
- 6 to check on that, but there may have been one other
- 7 owner.
- 8 Q. Who would that have been?
- A. It may have been Cindy Dohm. But Cindy
- 10 Dohm is with Deposit Choice and so -- but her full
- 11 effort is Deposit Choice. She never did anything
- 12 for Red Sky.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. And that was prior to any expense
- 15 reimbursement payments being made. She's never had
- 16 any compensation at all in that Red Sky.
- 17 Q. Okay. I apologize. I thought that I
- 18 had found this one document but I had not.
- 19 Do you -- now I really apologize
- 20 because I need to find this document but I'll find
- 21 it in a minute. I'll come back to that. I'll mark
- 22 this.

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Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

64 (253 to 256)

255

We were talking about the financial

statements of Nexus.

(Deposition Exhibit 53 marked 3

for identification.)

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

So this is an e-mail dated January 3,

2019, if you want to take a minute to review it.

Α. Sure.

So this is an e-mail dated January 3, Q.

10 2019. And it's from you to Mr. Donovan and you're

11 commenting upon the financial statements that

12 Mr. Donovan had provided to you.

Do you see that? 13

14 A. Yes.

15 O. Okay. And in January of 2019, I guess

16 at this point in time, did you believe that the

17 financial statements being provided to you by Nexus

18 were inaccurate?

19 A. Yes, as I alluded to in one of the

20 other answers. I don't think they had the real

21 experienced accounting team that they really should

22 have.

O. Okay. And did -- do you know whether

or not -- do you have any personal knowledge of

whether or not Nexus was operating at a profit or

4 loss?

5 A. I don't have any personal knowledge of

that, no.

Okay. And at this point in time, were

you reviewing Nexus's financial status on behalf of

9 Philadelphia Reinsurance?

10 A. What date is this?

Q. January of 2019. 11

12 A. I believe the program was with

13 Evergreen at the time of this e-mail.

Okay. And did you have any business 14 Q.

15 relationship with Evergreen?

A. Business relationship, yes. 16

17 Q. What was your relationship with

18 Evergreen?

A. Pre or post RLI? 19

20 Q. Both.

Pre RLI, it was more Greg Chilson's 21 A.

22 relationship with Evergreen. And then at the time

1 I was working there Deposit Choice wanted to split

their business up a little bit so they didn't have

all business with one company.

At the time you were where?

When I was at RLI, I worked at Deposit

Choice for them as well and, the individual owner

there wanted to have a second surety company

because he didn't want all of his business with

9 RLI.

10 So I tried to find a friendly surety

11 company that wouldn't take the whole business away

12 from us at some point in time if that was hopefully

13 not possible. But anyway, I was looking for a

14 friendly competitor and Greg Chilson and/or his

15 boss at the time Murray Di (phonetic) recommended

16 Evergreen because they have -- they share accounts

17 in some regard with Evergreen.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Evergreen helps them out, RLI helps

20 Evergreen out.

And then after you left RLI what has 21

22 been your relationship with Evergreen?

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Well, I eventually was associated with

Deposit Choice as mentioned, and you know, them --

they had part of their business with Evergreen and

then part of their business with RLI.

Okay. And so in looking at this

e-mail, you were concerned that there was too

much -- too much funds loaned to the employees.

Do you see that in the second 8

paragraph?

5

10 Right. I just didn't know the

11 accuracy. This whole statement didn't look

12 accurate and I don't -- I don't think that anybody

13 focused on the financial statement before it was

14 sent except the accountant and as I mentioned the

15 accountant just wasn't very skilled in completing

16 the financial statement as I -- that I had asked

17 for.

18 Q. Well, did you expect Mr. Donovan to

19 review the statements before providing them to you?

20 Did I expect him to? Not necessarily.

21 You know I was just asking for the updated

22 financial statement and when I got it in, it didn't

65 (257 to 260)

259

make sense.

- O. Okay. And it says, where is all the
- 3 cash and cash collateral from clients you've set
- aside to pay bond forfeitures.
- Do you see that?
- 6 Yes. A.
- So you were not seeing any of -- in the Q.
- 8 financial statements, you weren't seeing any of the
- 9 cash collateral on the -- located as an asset on 10 the balance sheets?
- A. I don't have the financial statement in 12 front of me to analyze it. All I can do is read 13 this e-mail.
- Q. All right. And did you meet Greg 15 Solstren?
- A. Greg who? 16
- 17 O. Solstren. I don't know. I might be 18 saying his name wrong but he was going to be the 19 CFO. You mentioned the name Greg in here?
- 20 A. Me?
- 21 Q. Yes. I was wondering if you had met 22 him.
- I have met Greg, if he's the individual that was from Atlanta.
- 3 Q. I don't know where he's from.
- I don't know his last name, but I met
- a I think that might be Greg –
- He was going to be the CFO of Nexus? Q. 6
- 7 I believe so. A.
- Right. And do you know why he then did O.
- not become the CFO of Nexus?
- 10 No, I just know that he did – he may 11 have been in that position for a period of time, 12 but I don't know the reason why he was - he's not 13 still there.
- 14 Q.
- 15 (Deposition Exhibit 54 marked
- for identification.) 16
- 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Do you recognize this document? 18 Q.
- 19 A. Yes.
- Okay. And this is a indemnification
- 21 agreement between Philadelphia Reinsurance -- well,
- 22 it's on behalf of -- it's executed by Nexus

- 1 Services in an effort to indemnify Philadelphia
- Reinsurance Company, right?
- I believe so, yes. 3
- O. And it's dated March of 2018.
- 5 A.
- Q. Okay. So what bonds did Philadelphia 6
- Reinsurance issue on behalf of Nexus?
- None. I don't believe there was any 9 because we didn't get the treasury listing or 10 Philadelphia didn't get the treasury listing.
- So this was prepared and basically 12 trying to get everything set to start to issue 13 bonds?
- I believe so. 14 Α.
- 15 Q. And who prepared the indemnity 16 agreement, do you know?
- I believe their attorney, which his 17 18 name escapes me, but I think I do remember. I 19 think his name is Josh Little. I don't remember 20 what firm he's with but I think he is the one that 21 may have completed the indemnity agreement.
- Now, if you look at that indemnity

- 1 agreement and I'm going to focus you back
- to -- oops. I thought that I had a document out there for you. I think it was exhibit -- did you
- put it an exhibit back in here that I pulled? I'm
- sorry. Here it is.

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- I'm going to refer you back to Sandoz 6
- 18. And I apologize for leaning over you.
- 8 Α. No problem.
- 9 Q. But this is the indemnity agreement 10 that was executed by Nexus on behalf of RLI.
- 11 A.
- And do you -- were you aware that this 12 O. 13 indemnity agreement for Philadelphia Reinsurance 14 Corporation is different than the one executed by 15 RLI?
- 16 I may have, but it was prepared by 17 somebody other than me.
- Do you know whether Nexus negotiated 19 and changed some of the terms of this indemnity 20 agreement?
- I do not. I believe it was the 21 A. 22 attorney for Philadelphia Re.

66 (261 to 264)

263

261

- 1 Q. Do you see, for example, in looking at
- 2 B on the second page?
- 3 A. Second page of which agreement?
 - Q. Of the Philadelphia. Regarding claims
- 5 against surety?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. It says, indemnitor shall have the
- 8 exclusive right for itself and the surety to
- 9 determine whether any claim or suit upon a bond 10 shall be paid, compromised, defended or appealed.
- Do you see that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. That's different than the standard form 14 of indemnity agreement that you were aware of prior 15 to working with Philadelphia Reinsurance?
- 16 A. Okay.
- 17 Q. Do you know that?
- 18 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 19 A. No.

20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Isn't it typically the surety who hasexclusive rights to determine whether any claim or
- suit be paid, compromised, defended or appealed?
- 2 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 3 A. That might be so. Yes.
- 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 5 Q. Okay. And similarly, for example in
- 6 little three of this agreement it says, surety
- 7 shall have the foregoing rights if the indemnitor
- 8 has failed to assume or offered to assume the
- 9 defense of the surety. That's different than the
- 10 standard for agreement, isn't it?
- 11 A. I don't know if there is a standard
- 12 form of agreement. This is the agreement that the
- 13 legal staff at RLI presented. This is the one that
- 14 Philadelphia Re presented. And I'm not an attorney
- 15 so this is what they were comfortable with, this is
- 16 what RLI was comfortable with.
- 17 Q. Well, you were sending it to
- 18 Mr. -- well, I guess Mr. Donovan was sending it
- 19 back to you executed. So did you not have
- 20 discussions regarding the terms of this indemnity
- 21 agreement with Nexus?
- 22 A. With Nexus, I perhaps did.

- Q. And do you remember they were changing
- 2 the terms of the indemnity agreement from that
- 3 which they had with RLI?
- A. They may have recommended changes, yes.
- Q. Okay. Well, you can see it looking at
- 6 the documents, they did change the terms, right?
- 7 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 9 Q. I mean, we just looked at -- we looked 10 at B, for example.
- 11 A. I'm not sure. I don't know who changed
- 12 them. They may have suggested the changes, but I
- 13 don't know.
- 14 Q. All right. And do you see on page 3 15 of 5 of the Philadelphia there is a confidentiality
- 16 provision that has been added to the indemnity 17 agreement?
- 18 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 19 A. I don't know if it was added, but I
- 20 would have to review the two.
- 21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 22 Q. Well, in your years at RLI, do you
- 264
- 1 recall this kind of provision -- a confidentiality
- 2 provision like this being included in any indemnity
- 3 agreement?

- 4 A. I don't recall if there has been one
- 5 before or not. I've been in the business for many
- years.
- 7 Q. Okay. And I don't have an extra copy
- 8 of this on me, so I'm just going to show it to you
- 9 and offer it to your counsel too and keep it for my 10 notes.
- This is an e-mail dated February 28
- 12 from Mike Donovan to you, and it's when you were
- 13 having those visits on site.
- 14 And the only question I was going to
- 15 ask you is: That the audit team had requested any
- 16 agreements between Nexus and Marco, and on -- in
- 17 the response here, Mr. Donovan says, I would have
- 18 to check with Marco to determine if our agreement
- 18 to check with Marco to determine if our agreement 19 could be shared.
- 20 Do you see that?
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I haven't
- 22 seen the document.

67 (265 to 268)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 267 I don't know what that's all about. I don't know. Likely, but I don't know A. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: that for sure. 2 That's what I was going to ask you. Do 3 Okay. And did Nexus's counsel draft O. you have any understanding? this declaration? Not from just reading a little blurb 5 A. Yes. like that, no, I do not. Q. And did Nexus's counsel tell you why You've already testified you're unaware they wanted a declaration from you? of any agreement between Marco and Nexus? 8 Α. I don't recall one. A. Correct. 9 Q. At the time that you provided the 10 Q. Okay. Thank you. 10 affidavit in November of 2018, you were -- were you MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm sorry, counsel. 11 11 working with American Surety Company or 12 MR. PHILLIPS: If you have notes on it, 12 Philadelphia Reinsurance? 13 I don't have to see it. 13 When was the date of this? MS. KATSANTONIS: That's okay. It was 14 November of 2018. Q. 15 just this line right there. That's what I was 15 That might have the -- I'm confused on 16 reading. 16 the time frame, but it might have been when we were 17 MR. PHILLIPS: That's fine. 17 working with Evergreen. MS. KATSANTONIS: Thank you. 18 Okay. And just so I'm not confused. 19 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 19 One of the sureties that we know issued bonds for 20 Q. All right. Mr. Sandoz, you've 20 Nexus they refer to as AIA, is that -- do you know 21 submitted two affidavits in this litigation, right? 21 who that is? 22 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 22 A. Being in the industry, I've heard of 266 268 1 AIA. I think that they are - yes, I've heard of 1 Declarations. them. 2 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm sorry. 3 Are they affiliated with American or Declarations. (Deposition Exhibit 55 marked 4 Deposit Choice or any entity that you've been involved with? 5 for identification.) BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 6 A. No, not to my knowledge. And what about FSC? Q. And who requested that you submit an Ο. affidavit? What's the question? 8 8 Α. Do you know who FSC Surety is -- or did A. I believe -- I don't know who the Q. 10 parties were, but I believe they had phone 10 I get it wrong is it FCS? Do I know them? I don't know them. 11 conversations with either Nexus and/or Nexus and 12 counsel where they wanted to ask me some questions 12 I've heard the name. I know the name. 13 and I answered those questions. And they asked if Are you aware that immigration bonds 13

15 declaration. 15 A. I believe so. Who specifically was involved in the And did you have any involvement or O. 16

18 A. I don't know. I would have to guess.

14 I would put my answers in this decla -- in a

- 19 Well, Mr. Donovan, correct? Q.
- 20 A. I believe Mike was, yes.
- 21 And was it Ms. Donne Peters as counsel O.

22 for Nexus?

17 discussion?

16

14 were issued at the request of Nexus by FCS?

17 relationship with or did I get it wrong; is it FCS?

20 this declaration in November of 2018, so this is

Okay. All right. So at the time of

18

19

Α.

Q.

4

270

1

68 (269 to 272)

271

that didn't -- we looked at the indemnity agreement

2 dated March of 2018?

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

4 A. But this is November, right? So no, I 5 don't believe — I don't really remember.

6 MR. PHILLIPS: He's trying to finish

7 his answer.

8 MS. KATSANTONIS: You're right. I'm

9 sorry.

10 A. I really don't remember. I mean I know 11 that we were trying to get the treasury listing at 12 Philadelphia RE.

13 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

14 Q. Through 2019 is what you testified to.

15 A. Yes. Okay.

16 Q. So in March of 2018, we just saw the 17 executed indemnity agreement?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So wouldn't that mean that you were 20 still working with Philadelphia Reinsurance from -- 21 for all of 2018 until sometime in 2019?

22 A. That could be accurate, yes.

Q. Right.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So with regard to this affidavit,

4 you -- I guess I'm confused by paragraph 6.

5 So Marco served as the immigration bond

agent for all bonds for RLI served surety?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. All right. Now, paragraph 7.

9 (Mr. Williams entered the deposition

10 room.)

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

12 Q. In paragraph 7 you say attached as

13 Exhibit B is a copy of discussions that occurred in

14 June regarding cash payments.

Why were you referencing this June

16 e-mail in your affidavit?

17 (Mr. Williams left the deposition

18 room.)

19 A. I was probably asked a question related 20 to the collateral arrangements that we were making

21 with Nexus regarding the bonds that were placed

22 with RLI.

1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. Okay. So what are you trying to relay,

3 what is your understanding?

A. The understanding is that we — as I

5 indicated earlier, that we were negotiating a

6 certain amount of collateral as leverage or

7 whatever you want to term it as, while we got

8 comfortable with the program.

9 Q. Okay. But we -- when we talked about

10 this e-mail earlier of June 2016, first of all,

11 Nexus was to provide RLI with \$50,000 by June 15 of

12 2016 and 50,000 by July 15, 2016. And do you know

13 if RLI -- if Nexus ever provided any of those cash 14 collateral?

15 A. I don't recall how much collateral, if 16 any, that RLI received.

17 Q. Right. And then we talked about this

18 whole business of contingency funds and based on

19 your testimony earlier today, that could not have

20 been part of any collateral agreement because that

21 would involve Big Marco, right?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

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A. Unless there was some sort of an

2 agreement that Marco could make with Nexus to

3 perform risk mitigation services for them. But

4 again, I don't know if that ever took place.

Q. Right. And when we talked about this

6 before, I mean, obviously it was your testimony

7 that the Big Marco -- it was your understanding8 there was no agreement that Big Marco would pay any

of the collateral for Nexus, right?

10 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I believe

11 that misstates his testimony.

12 A. I don't know if an agreement was

13 consummated or not.

14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

15 Q. And you had no agreement or

16 understanding with Big Marco that big Marco would

17 pay any collateral on behalf of Nexus, right?

18 A. Me?

19 Q. RLI.

20 A. RLI? No, not that I'm aware of.

21 Q. Right. In paragraph 8 it says, it is

22 my understanding that if RLI suffered no losses on

69 (273 to 276)

275

276

surety bonds, all cash collateral would be returned

- to Nexus within a year.
- 3 Where is that understanding derived
- from?
- I believe that once I got comfortable
- 6 with the program, that I intended to return the
- 7 collateral to Nexus, but I don't remember the —
- 8 all the circumstances related to that. But at some
- 9 point that was my intention.
- 10 Q. But that never happened, right? I mean
- 11 it was never --
- 12 A. I probably left RLI by that time.
- Right. And we've seen e-mails that 13 O.
- 14 additional collateral was asked -- do you remember
- 15 you said that you were the messenger to provide --
- A. Yes. 16
- 17 O. So that would be contrary to your
- 18 statement that Nexus would be rebated their
- 19 collateral, right?
- 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 21 This is a statement that indicates that
- 22 if there were no losses sustained on the program at 22 we're talking about collateral?
- 1 the time that we were -- that I was working with
- 2 Nexus at RLI that that collateral would be returned
- 3 to them. I may -- I don't remember all the
- 4 circumstances but that was kind of the gist of our
- conversation with -- my conversation with Nexus.
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- But did that -- do you understand
- generally that the surety can ask for collateral at
- any point in time in the relationship of the
- 10 surety?
- 11 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 12 answered.
- 13 MS. KATSANTONIS: It hasn't been.
- 14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Between the surety and the indemnitor? 15
- No, I don't think they can just say
- 17 they want collateral any time they want to ask for 18 collateral.
- 19 Q. When can a surety ask for collateral?
- Well, if they are having -- if for
- 21 instance, Nexus is standing in front of the surety,
- 22 if Nexus defaults and doesn't pay breaches, and --

- 1 I mean, you have to get the parties together and
- find out what happened and make sure that those
- breaches are taken care of by the indemnitor.
- But if there was several breaches
- that if there was a pattern of several breaches
- 6 not being paid over a long period of time, then the
- 7 surety, my understanding, has to set a reserve and
- 8 then they have the right to collateralize that
- 9 reserve because that's their best estimate of what
- 10 the loss is going to be to the surety.
- And to my knowledge, I don't think RLI 12 has put a big reserve up or I don't know of any
- 13 reserve that RLI has put up to trigger the
- 14 requirement for collateral.
- Where is that requirement written or 16 made part of agreement that you have to put up a
- 17 reserve before you request collateral?
- It's just my understanding that that
- 19 that's the way that I believe RLI and other surety 20 companies handle claims.
- Well, I'm not talking about claims,
- 274 Well, you have to have claims to
 - require collateral, to request collateral.
 - Well, you requested \$500,000 in
 - collateral at the beginning of the relationship,
 - you didn't have any claims?
 - No, that was.
 - MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
 - Objection; argumentative.
 - BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
 - 10 Q. I mean that's correct, right?
 - That was to get comfortable with the 11 A. 12 program.
 - So there are different rules to get
 - 14 comfortable with the program versus claims; is that
 - 15 what you're saying?
 - 16 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
 - 17 I don't understand that question. 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
 - Well, you asked for 500,000 at the
 - 20 beginning of the relationship, right, in
 - 21 collateral?
 - 22 Yes, I asked for an amount, yes and I

70 (277 to 280)

280

don't - if it was \$500,000 then yes.

- And did you post a reserve of \$500,000? 2 Q.
- 3 A.
- Q. Okay. And so you don't have to post a
- reserve before requesting collateral, right?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- I don't know that. In my work in
- 8 surety typically, you have to have a problem before 8
- 9 you ask for collateral. You have to put up a
- 10 reserve and it has to be you have to give your best
- 11 guess of what the loss is going to be and you have
- 12 to ask for you have to ask for collateral to
- 13 protect that.

14 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. But we just talked about at the
- 16 beginning of the relationship, you didn't have to
- 17 do that, right?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 19 answered.
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. You didn't have to have claims and you
- 22 didn't have to set up a reserve when you asked for
- 1 500,000 in collateral?
- That was negotiated going into the
- program. It didn't have anything to do with having
- problems on the on an account.
- It has to do with the comfort level of
- the surety with the program, right?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 9 Q. Is that right?
- 10 It was - as I explained, it was a new 11 program and I did ask for some collateral up front. 11 this calls for any attorney/client privilege
- When you asked in June, attached here,
- 13 when you talked about potentially having 250,000 in
- 14 collateral, was there a claim that you were asking
- 15 for \$250,000 in collateral for?
- You mean when I negotiated that down 16 17 from 500 to 250?
- If that's how you want to state it, Q.
- 19 that's fine.
- When you negotiated \$250,000 collateral
- 21 was there a claim or did you set a reserve?
- No, it was part of the getting 22

- 1 comfortable with the program and then my intention
- was to if it worked the way that we anticipated it
- working then I was going to return that.
 - Okay. And then --
- A. It was leverage.
- -- in December when you asked Nexus to Q.
- post a million and 250 in collateral, was that
- based on a claim and was a reserve set?
- No, it was based on RLI asking me to do 10 that.
- 11 Okay. So it wasn't based on -- and O.
- 12 there was no reserve set for that demand, right?
- 13 I don't know.
- 14 Not to your knowledge? Q.
- 15 Not to my knowledge.
- 16 O. Did Nexus advise you that there was a
- 17 primary injunction hearing at the end of November
- 18 and that's why they wanted your declaration?
- 19 A. Not that I recall.
- 20 O. Are you aware there was a preliminary
- 21 injunction hearing at the end of November 2018
- 22 based on RLI's contention that Nexus had failed to
- 278

make bond payments?

- I know there was a I know there were problems but I don't know the extent of them, no.
- (Deposition Exhibit 56 marked
 - for identification.)
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. And then I'm going to show you a
- declaration that is dated February 24, 2020. Why
- did you prepare this declaration?
- 10 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. So far as
- 12 communications, client should not answer it.
- It's not about a discussion that we had 13
- 14 or seeking legal advice or information from me.
- 15 You can answer to that extent, but I'm advising you
- 16 not to answer insofar as attorney/client privilege
- 17 communication.
- 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- So why did -- did you prepare this Q. 20 declaration?
- I didn't prepare the declaration, no. 21 A.
- 22 It's my interaction.

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Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

71 (281 to 284)

283

Q. Did Nexus ask that you submit this

2 declaration?

A. I had interactions with Nexus relating

- 4 to these questions or relating to this document,
- 5 yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. Who at Nexus did you speak with?
- 7 A. I think it was just Mike Donovan. I'm 8 not positive on that.
- 9 Q. And what did Mike Donovan ask you to 10 do?
- 11 A. He just asked some questions and asked 12 if I would be willing to give this input on the 13 questions that were asked in a declaration.
- 14 Q. Okay. And what questions did
- 15 Mr. Donovan ask you?
- 16 A. I think it was more related to number 9 17 and perhaps number 10.
- 18 Q. And do you recall specifically what he 19 asked you?
- 20 A. No, I don't.
- 21 Q. Do you recall generally what the 22 discussion was?
- A. Just asked how I think he he just
- 2 asked how the my understanding of how the 3 indemnity agreement works.
- Q. Okay. And don't -- in your role isn't
- 5 it the claims side who deals with indemnity
- 6 agreements at RLI?
- 7 A. In what regard?
- 8 Q. In implementing them, interpreting
- 9 them, enforcing them?
- 10 A. I think they designed them, yes.
- 11 Q. And what role did you have in
- 12 implementing or enforcing terms of an indemnity 13 agreement?
- 14 A. I don't the claim department handles 15 claims.
- 16 Q. Right. And, in fact, for Nexus's
- 17 indemnity agreement, you asked your claims
- 18 department to assist in preparing the indemnity
- 19 agreement, right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And when I asked you earlier
- 22 today about the terms of the indemnity agreement

- 1 you weren't familiar with many of the terms, right?
- A. I don't know that. I wasn't familiar with the terms, what do you mean by that?
- 4 Q. Are you familiar I asked you if this
- 5 was a standard agreement, you didn't know, right?
 - A. That doesn't have anything to do with
- 7 not understanding an indemnity agreement. I said
- 8 that I would have to look at the indemnity
- 9 agreement and give you my thoughts on interpreting 10 them.
- 11 Q. Okay. And have you had occasions to
- 12 enforce or implement terms of an indemnity
- 13 agreement?
- 14 A. Personally? Claims are --
- 15 Q. In your role with RLI?
- 16 A. Claims are handled by the claim
- 17 department. The underwriters are not handling the 18 claims.
- 19 O. Right. So would it also be accurate
- 20 that the claims department would have a better
- 21 understanding of what the terms of the indemnity
- 22 agreement require?

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- 1 A. Require? Can you explain what you mean 2 by require?
- Q. Well, the indemnity agreement isn't
- 4 something that you typically deal with, right, in
- 5 your day-to-day business -- in your role as vice
- 6 president of miscellaneous sureties the terms of an
- 7 indemnity agreement aren't something that you deal
- 8 with day-to-day, right?
- 9 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Go ahead.
- 10 A. Well, in miscellaneous sureties we ask 11 for indemnity AOIs.

12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 13 Q. Right. But those aren't terms -- those
- 14 aren't agreements that you're working on, right;
- 15 you get them from the claims department, and you 16 pass it along, right?
- 17 A. As if I didn't read them?
- 18 Q. Well, do you not read them?
- 19 A. Sure, I've read indemnity agreements 20 before.
- 21 Q. Well, I asked you about the
- 22 Philadelphia Reinsurance indemnity agreement a few

72 (285 to 288)

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1 minutes ago, right?

- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. And you weren't familiar with those 4 terms, right?
- 5 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.
- 6 A. Familiar with the terms? What terms
- 7 were they?

8 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 9 Q. I was asking you how those terms
 10 differed from the RLI indemnity agreement and you
 11 really didn't know, right?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. That
- 13 certainly misstates his testimony.

14 A. Yeah, I think you've misstated it. 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 16 Q. Well, do you know how the terms of the 17 Philadelphia Reinsurance indemnity agreement 18 differed from the RLI indemnity agreement?
- 19 A. I never had an opportunity to review 20 them side by side. That's what I indicated to you. 21 I would have to review them side by side.
- 22 Q. And then you would pick out how they

1 differ. But sitting here today, you don't recall

- 2 how they differ?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. And why did you put paragraph five in 5 your declaration?
- 6 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. So far as
- 7 this question seeks the divulging of
- 8 attorney/client privileged information, I'm
- 9 instructing you not to answer.
- 10 If it's something that I told you that
- 11 you were giving in response to ask for legal advice
- 12 or information, if you have something that has
- 13 nothing to do with me giving you legal advice or
- 14 information that is still pertinent and answers the
- 15 question, you should certainly answer that portion 16 of it, though.

17 A. What is the question again? 18 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 19 Q. Do you know why -- who prepared this 20 declaration?
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Insofar as 22 this question calls for the divulging of

- 1 attorney/client information, don't answer it or
- 2 you'll waive it. If there is something that you
- 3 can answer that doesn't involve that, you should
- 4 answer that portion of it.
- 5 A. I have nothing to say on it.

BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. So it was not Nexus's counsel, or was
- 3 it Nexus's counsel who prepared this?
- 9 MR. SHOREMAN: Are you asking did 10 Nexus's lawyers write that agreement?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Who wrote the 12 declaration?
- MR. PHILLIPS: We have two questions 14 pending. I think the first one was who wrote it.
- 15 To that one, I object saying, you should be getting
- 16 the flavor of what's happening here, don't answer
- 17 insofar as it waives your attorney/client
- 18 privilege. That is, any information I gave,
- 19 anything that's doing for you.
- As the second question that's also
- 21 pending, whether or not Nexus -- whether it was
- 22 Nexus's client or Nexus's attorneys, obviously,

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- 1 they are not your attorneys, so I have no objection
- 2 to that one being answered. But I further object
- 3 that it is a compound question now.
- 4 A. So repeat the question.

5 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. Did Nexus's counsel assist in draftingthat declaration?
- 8 A. I don't believe so.
- 9 Q. The first declaration we saw that was 10 at the end of November 2018, that was drafted by 11 Nexus's counsel?
- 12 A. I believe so.
- 13 Q. Okay. All right. And with regard to
- 14 this declaration -- so paragraph nine, I think
- 15 talks about some of the things that we talked about
- 16 earlier today, right, that it was Nexus's
- 17 obligation to stand in front of RLI and pay all
- 18 bond breaches, right?

19 A. Correct.

- 20 Q. And if there were hitches in the
- 21 process of paying those breaches requiring RLI to
- 22 make the payment, Nexus would have to make

Transcript of David Sandoz

73 (289 to 292)

Conducted on March 5, 2020 291 immediate payment for the loss RLI suffered, right? answered. Correct. 2 MS. KATSANTONIS: You're not defending 3 Q. So at the end of the day, what you're him, Mr. Williams. saying is the indemnity agreement to your 4 The gist of what I was writing is that understanding provides that RLI should have no 5 in the case of breaches where it's eventually financial loss, right? 6 determined that the breach -- the breach has to be 7 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. paid to ICE, that Nexus would be in line first to Nexus stands in front of the surety and 8 pay that breach. 9 it's — it was anticipated that Nexus would pay 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 10 breaches. 10 Right. And if Nexus didn't pay that 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 11 breach, you write, and RLI had to make payments 12 O. Such that? 12 Nexus would be required to make immediate payment 13 to RLI for the loss RLI suffered in order to keep 13 That were due. Α. Right. Such that RLI would have no 14 RLI whole. No financial loss to RLI, right? 14 Q. 15 financial loss, right? A. That's what it states. 15 Right. So it's your understanding that 16 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. 16 O. 17 Yes, they would stand in front of the 17 the indemnity agreement operates to ensure that RLI 18 surety as — and be the first ones in line to pay 18 doesn't suffer financial loss, right? MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. 19 breaches. 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Is that your understanding of the Q. Right. I'm just reading your words, 22 right, that there would be no financial loss to 22 indemnity agreement? 290 292 1 RLI, right; that's what was anticipated with the MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. 1 indemnity agreement; is that correct? It stands that the indemnity agreement MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; compound. stands in for and help RLI by having Nexus stand in Objection; leading. front of losses that are -- that eventually have to A. Can you rephrase that? be paid. BY MS. KATSANTONIS: BY MS. KATSANTONIS: Yeah, I mean, you understood that the And then also, to indemnify RLI if RLI 8 way the indemnity agreement was to work was that -makes a payment, right, to pay RLI back? 9 such that there would be no financial loss to RLI, Yes. 9 A. 10 right? 10 Right? Q. MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. 11 11 A. Yes. 12 Objection; it's been asked and answered, I think. 12 And so those two mechanisms work to O. 13 And it's also written down. 13 ensure that RLI suffers no loss, right? MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm reading his 14 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. 14 15 words. 15 A. Not necessarily. 16 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, then he can just 16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 17 agree because that's what he wrote. 17 Q. How -- what do you mean by not MR. SHOREMAN: He doesn't have to 18 necessarily? 19 agree. You're taking it out of context. 19 Well, if RLI has like -- I'll try to 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS: 20 think of an example, you'll have to give me a

22

21 little time.

O.

Sure.

O. Mr. Sandoz --

MR. WILLIAMS: He's -- asked and

74 (293 to 296)

1 A. There has been situations where there
2 has been claims where the surety has incurred some
3 expenses in investigating the claim and in not all
4 of those cases they have asked the indemnitor to
5 pay these expenses that have been incurred.
6 So what I was referring to here is
7 actual losses. I mean there can be some financial
8 expenses on behalf of RLI that may not be required

10 Q. Well, RLI would make that decision not 11 to ask the indemnitor for those expenses, right?

9 to be paid back by Nexus, for example.

- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. But RLI under the indemnity agreement 14 would have the right to ask for all loss and 15 expenses under the terms of the indemnity 16 agreement, right?
- 17 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. And 18 just for my -- are you talking about an indemnity 19 agreement or the one at issue because I'm getting 20 lost on that?
- MR. WILLIAMS: You're badgering this 22 guy. He keeps answering the same thing over and
- 1 over again. You're trying to get him to say 2 the value of all --
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Williams, you're 3 not defending him. And the deponent has submitted 4
- 5 a declaration saying that he understands the terms
- 6 of the indemnity agreement, so I want to explore
- 7 his knowledge of the terms of the indemnity
- 8 agreement.
- 9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 10 Q. So do you have an understanding under 11 the indemnity agreement that the surety has the 12 right to recover losses including expenses of 13 whatever kind or nature?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading. And 15 by the indemnity agreement, do you mean the one 16 that is in this case that's not sitting in front of 17 my client so he can't review it?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: It's right in front 19 of him. It's attached to --
- 20 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, you have to 21 present it to him.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: I have. It's

1 attached to his affidavit.

MR. WILLIAMS: By losses, do you mean claims? Losses on claims? What are you talking about?

5 MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Williams, 6 please -- Mr. Williams, you are not defending this

7 witness.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: You're badgering him.

9 (Mr. Williams left the deposition 10 room.)

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

12 Q. Do you have an understanding that the 13 indemnity agreement provides that the surety can 14 require the indemnitor to pay upon demand all loss, 15 costs, damages, attorney fees and expenses of 16 whatever kind or nature?

- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- 18 A. What part of the indemnity agreement 19 are you referring to?

20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- 21 Q. Paragraph 2(a)(1).
- 22 A. I can't read that word there. All

1 what?

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- Q. All losses, costs, damages. I have a clearer version.
- MR. PHILLIPS: Obviously, I'm the one that stuck that on there, and I didn't know it was going to print so poorly.
- 7 MS. KATSANTONIS: I have a clearer
- 8 version. He's going to have to excuse the
- 9 highlighting. But if you want to read, it's
- 10 easier.
- 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 12 Q. So 2(a)(1).
- 13 A. So the question is in the event of a 14 claim —
- 15 Q. Well, I'm asking you, doesn't the 16 surety indemnity agreement provide that the 17 indemnitor agrees to pay the surety upon demand all 18 losses, costs, damages, attorney fees and expenses 19 of whatever kind and nature which arise by reason
- 19 of whatever kind and nature which arise by reason
- 20 of or in consequence of the surety having executed 21 any bond.
- Do you see that?

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Transcript of David Sandoz Conducted on March 5, 2020

75 (297 to 300)

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A. I can't read part of this one. So give me examples of what you're trying to get at. Q. I'm not trying to get at anything. I'm

trying to understand your testimony. You submitted

a declaration as to your understanding of the

indemnity agreement.

And I was asking you --

A. That's not my -- it was my

understanding of how the program was going to work.

Q. Okay. Well, it purports to say what is 10

11 your understanding of the indemnity agreement, so

12 I'm trying to clarify that because the start of

13 paragraph 9 says, it is my understanding that the

14 commercial surety general indemnity agreement

15 protects RLI through requiring Nexus to pay and

16 then you go on there, right?

17 A. My understanding is that the surety 18 can't just say I want a bunch of money for no

19 reason.

Q. Okay. And I'm not asking you that. Do

21 you have any -- is it your contention that -- do

22 you have any -- are you contending that that

1 happened in this case?

I don't know. That's what

I'm — that's what I'm thinking that you're asking

4 me.

> No. So I'm trying to get -- I'm trying O.

6 to understand, first of all, why you issued a

7 declaration, and second, what facts are you basing

8 if on. Okay? With regard -- let's just talk about

9 the second part.

10 Are you -- do you have any facts

11 regarding any collateral demands made by surety in

12 this case?

13 A. Other than what we've read in the 14 documents, no.

Okay. So your declaration is not 15 O. 16 intended to speak to any specific collateral demand 17 in this case, right?

No, it's just generally how I interpret 19 when claims happen, what — how they are typically 20 handled.

Why are you just offering an opinion in 21 Q. 22 a declaration for this case?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Insofar as

this asks for attorney/client privileged

information, do not divulge that attorney/client

privileged information or you may waive the

attorney/client privilege.

Insofar as there is an answer that does not involve that or a response, you should answer

that portion of the question.

I want to protect the attorney/client 10 privilege.

11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Okay. So I think that I understand.

13 Do you purport to have a full understanding of this

14 general agreement of indemnity between RLI and

15 Nexus?

A general understanding? A. 16

17 Q. Right.

Or an attorney understanding? 18 Α.

19 I'm not asking an attorney Q.

20 understanding, so are you -- by the declaration

21 you've proffered some testimony in regards to the

22 indemnity agreement.

So I guess what I'm asking is, is

your -- do you have a full understanding of all of

the terms of indemnity agreement between RLI and

Nexus?

5

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MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

A. Can you ask me the question again? BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

I'm trying to understand -- let me ask

9 you a couple of other questions. Did you

10 understand that under the terms of the indemnity

11 agreement, Nexus was required to pay RLI upon

12 demand any and all losses, costs, damages,

13 attorneys fees and expenses of whatever kind or

14 nature which arise as a consequence of RLI having

15 issued the bonds?

16 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 17 answered. Objection; he's already said what his 18 understanding is and you just keep reading him the 19 same section of this agreement and asking if it's

20 his understanding that it says that.

MS. KATSANTONIS: No, I'm asking him

22 did he understand that.

76 (301 to 304)

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MR. PHILLIPS: Did he understand that

2 you read it?

MS. KATSANTONIS: No.

4 MR. PHILLIPS: We've been at this for

5 10 minutes. I'm sorry, but we have been at it for

6 10 minutes.

7 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. Did you understand that the surety had

9 the right to demand Nexus to pay any and all costs,

10 expenses, attorney fees incurred because --

11 incurred by RLI as a result of having issued bonds

12 at the request of Nexus?

13 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and 14 answered.

15 A. It's already answered.

16 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

17 Q. Well, what's the answer again; is it 18 yes or no?

19 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.

20 A. It's not a yes or no answer.

21 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

22 Q. So that's what I'm trying to get. So

what is your understanding of what RLI is entitled

2 to from an indemnity standpoint from Nexus?

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

4 answered. But you have to answer it again. So

5 please do.

6 A. Okay. So my understanding and the way

that I explained it to Nexus was that they are

8 signing the indemnity agreement to stand in front

9 of the surety company when their are claims and

10 those claims result in having to pay the obligee an

11 amount of money.

12 And Nexus has to step in and I wanted

13 to make sure that Nexus understood that they had to

14 step in and pay for those claims before RLI.

15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

16 Q. Right. And that if RLI had to pay any,

17 then Nexus would have to make immediate payment to

18 RLI for those payments, right?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and

20 answered. Objection; leading.

21 A. Right.

22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Q. And the purpose of all of that is to

2 ensure no financial loss to RLI, right?

3 A. On claims. On claims that are 4 presented, yes.

Q. And doesn't the indemnity agreement as

6 a whole provide that Nexus indemnify RLI for any

7 loss or expense?

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

9 A. I don't know what you mean by any loss 10 or expense. You would have to go through a litany 11 of examples.

12 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

13 Q. So you don't -- well, I'm asking you 14 then, let me just ask you an open question. What

15 is your understanding of what paragraph 2(a)(1) 16 provides?

17 A. I think I've already answered that. It 18 provides that if there is a loss to be paid on a 19 claim on a bond, that Nexus has to stand in front 20 of the surety and pay that claim.

21 And if they – if there is some reason

22 that it didn't get paid there has to be some

1 negotiations between or discussions between the

2 surety and the indemnitor to explain that it is

3 their duty to pay that claim.

And if there is anything that slipped through the cracks like that, they would have

to – they would have to pay that loss.

Q. Okay. Do you see in a -2(a)(1), in

8 2(a)(1) it talks about any, let's just go to

9 expense, of whatever kind or nature, which arrives

10 by reason of the surety having executed any bond,

11 right?

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MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.

13 Objection; asked and answered.

14 A. I'd answer it in the same way. I mean, 15 I don't know how many times I can answer that 16 question.

17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

8 Q. But it doesn't say anything about

19 claims in 2(a)(1), does it?

20 A. Well, that's where you have

21 the — that's where the surety has their problems.

22 If there is a claim, then the indemnifying party

77 (305 to 308)

307

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has to step in and take care of those claims.

- Q. Okay. Well, for indemnity in 2(a)(1)
- 3 it doesn't say claims again, right, it's just
- 4 talking about any expense that the surety incurs by
- 5 reason of having executed the bond. Do you know
- 6 what that language means?
- 7 A. I already explained that to you.
- 8 Q. So that's your understanding of that
- 9 language?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. All right. Then in paragraph
- 12 10 --
- 13 A. Of the indemnity agreement?
- 14 Q. No, of your -- it is not my
- 15 understanding that the commercial general indemnity
- 16 agreement require -- would require Nexus to provide
- 17 RLI with full cash collateral for all outstanding
- 18 bond liability if one or more claims were
- 19 presented?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. What are you stating there, give me an 22 example.
 - A. The example, you can -- we can go back
- 2 to the documents where they had a couple of claims
- 3 in whatever it was, in 2016 at some point.
- 4 So they have those claims and when they
- 5 are -- if the claims are ultimately having to be
- 6 paid, it's determined that they have to be paid to
- 7 the obligee and in this case ICE, Nexus would step
- 8 in in front of the surety -- the indemnitor would
- 9 step in front of the surety to pay those claims.
- 10 (Mr. Williams entered the deposition
- 11 room.)
- 12 A. It doesn't mean that if there is a
- 13 claim, that they would all of a sudden ask for an
- 14 extremely -- a lot of money outside of the claims
- 15 that were presented. That doesn't make sense.
- MR. PHILLIPS: He was not finished.
- 17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 18 Q. You say full cash collateral. Are you
- 19 saying that, for example -- you say full cash
- 20 collateral for all outstanding bond liability. Is
- 21 that sentence meant to say, for example,
- 22 that -- let me say it a different way.

- 1 Are you -- when you say full cash
- 2 collateral for all outstanding bond liability, are
- 3 you referencing the total amount, penal sum of
- 4 outstanding bonds?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: I have nothing
- 8 further.
- MR. PHILLIPS: If I may, before we go
- 10 off the record, I just want to apologize for -- I
- 11 had colloquy, and I don't like doing that. I 12 apologize.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: You were great.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
- 16 videographer. We're going off the record at 6:49 17 p.m.
- (Recess taken.)
- 19 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
- 20 videographer. We're going back on the record at
- 21 7:00 p.m.
- 22

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EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. SHOREMAN:
- Q. Mr. Sandoz, thank you for being here
- 4 today. I appreciate your contribution. I'm John
- 5 Shoreman. I represent the defendants in this
- action.
- 7 Let me ask you Mr. Sandoz, have you and
- 8 I had any communication prior to today?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Have you ever had any communication
- 11 with my colleague, Mario Williams, prior to today?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. You gave some testimony earlier about
- 14 the underwriting process in 2015. The underwriting
- 15 of Nexus on behalf of RLI. Who was responsibile
- 16 for the underwriting process; who was in charge?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection.
- 18 A. From RLI?

19 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

- 20 O. From RLI.
- 21 A. Me.
- 22 Q. Did you have a letter of authority from

78 (309 to 312)

311 RLI as an underwriter? 1 department? Yes. MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; asked and 2 A. 3 Q. Does that letter of authority have a answered. financial cap? A. Yes. He worked with Ira Sussman. It probably did, but I don't recall it. A. BY MR. SHOREMAN: Was the underwriting that you performed And was he involved in the drafting of Q. the indemnity agreement that was presented to on the Nexus case, was that within your authority at RLI? Nexus? 9 A. I'm quite sure it was. 9 Α. I'm not sure. I presume so, but I'm 10 O. As you sit here today, when I ask you a 10 not real sure. 11 question, did a lot of -- you had a lot of Now, much of this document has been 12 communication with Nexus in 2015 and 2016 about the 12 redacted but your response to Mr. Sussman and 13 underwriting process. You had -- looked at their 13 Mr. Austin appears on the top. Were you responding 14 to their questions in relation to the drafting of 14 financials. 15 15 the indemnity agreement? Sitting here today, can you say -- is 16 there any information that was provided to you by I'll have to read this again and see if 16 17 Nexus that you believe was misleading or deceitful 17 I can answer that. 18 or false representation? Sure. 18 O. 19 A. Not that I'm aware of. 19 I don't have the rest of the A. Now, you've given some testimony about 20 20 agreement – the rest of the correspondence. No, I 21 the indemnity agreement which you presented to 21 don't know. 22 Nexus in the course of RLI undertaking of the So you can't sit here today and tell me Q. 310 312 1 surety, issuance of bonds. There was an exhibit 1 why Mr. Austin needed this information from you? previously marked, I believe it's Exhibit 8. MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; Do you have that one? It's the one mischaracterizes the document. I mean you're --MR. SHOREMAN: Are you this man's that has partial redactions? 4 MR. PHILLIPS: That would be Exhibit 7. 5 5 attorney? MS. KATSANTONIS: But you're --6 MR. SHOREMAN: Is that the one? 6 MR. SHOREMAN: Are you this man's MS. KATSANTONIS: What's the date of the e-mail? attorney? 9 MR. PHILLIPS: June 26, 2015. It's the 9 MS. KATSANTONIS: Your question assumes 10 one that you redacted. You have the original 10 facts not in the record. 11 version. The one you redacted for attorney/client MR. SHOREMAN: Are you representing 12 privilege. 12 Mr. Sandoz? MS. KATSANTONIS: You just asked him a 13 MR. SHOREMAN: Can you place that in 13 14 front of the deponent? 14 question --MR. PHILLIPS: I'd like to reflect I'm 15 MR. SHOREMAN: Are you representing 16 getting -- well, actually, he has one from the 16 Mr. Sandoz? 17 court reporter. MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Shoreman, no, but 18 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 18 I'm trying to make sure that you don't mislead with Q. I'm referring you to what has been 19 the question. 20 marked as Exhibit 7, Mr. Sandoz. It appears that 20 MR. SHOREMAN: Well, that's not your 21 you're responding to somebody named Kirk Austin. 21 responsibility.

22

MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, I'm going say

22 Was Mr. Austin associated with the claims

79 (313 to 316)

315 that your question -- I object. Your question 1 Mr. Sandoz? assumes facts not into evidence. 2 Α. I believe so. MR. SHOREMAN: I'm trying to -- it's 3 MR. WILLIAMS: Ask it again. discovery. I'm trying to --A. No. MS. KATSANTONIS: It's not discovery. **BY MR. SHOREMAN:** You asked in your question --Q. Are you familiar with the term MR. SHOREMAN: You have no right to collateral demand security? interrupt this examination, Ms. Katsantonis. I would have to have you explain that A. MS. KATSANTONIS: Mr. Shoreman, you 9 terminology. 10 asked about a question from Mr. Austin. There is 10 O. Have you ever dealt with it in your 11 experience? Have you ever seen an indemnity 11 no question from Mr. Austin on this document. MR. SHOREMAN: Because you redacted it 12 agreement that within the document itself allowed a 13 surety, RLI, to demand security, demand collateral 13 under a false claim of privilege. MS. KATSANTONIS: I didn't. Okay. 14 at its sole discretion as part of the relationship? 14 15 BY MR. SHOREMAN: MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; calls for Q. All right. So were you -- putting 16 a legal conclusion. Lack of foundation. 17 aside what's been marked as Exhibit 7, were you 17 MR. SHOREMAN: Read the question back, 18 ever asked whether the indemnity agreement should 18 and we'll ignore Vivian's interruption. 19 contain a collateral security demand provision? I'm not sure. 19 A. A. Asked by who? 20 20 BY MR. SHOREMAN: MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. Well, are you familiar with RLI surety 21 21 22 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 22 forms, have you made yourself familiar with --314 316 By anyone at RLI? A. The surety — the indemnity agreement? Q. 1 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. 2 2 Q. 3 Α. No. 3 Yeah, I used to be many years ago when I was working there, but yes. MR. SHOREMAN: You have no right to 5 All right. Let me place before you object for this witness. MS. KATSANTONIS: I can object to what were marked as -- let's just continue on with 6 this Exhibit 57. I don't have a copy of this but anything that I want. MR. WILLIAMS: You told me that I I'll pass it to counsel to take a look at it. 9 couldn't. 9 (Deposition Exhibit 57 marked 10 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 10 for identification.) MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm going to object O. Did you answer that? 11 11 12 to this document. It's not complete and it's MR. PHILLIPS: I believe, for what it's 12 13 worth, I believe that the deponent did answer the 13 certainly irrelevant. 14 question in there somewhere. MR. SHOREMAN: Well, I haven't asked 15 MR. SHOREMAN: I would like to have it 15 any questions yet. Do you mind putting it in front 16 of the witness? 16 read back, please, so we can get a clear answer 17 without Ms. Katsantonis's objections. MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, it's an 17 (Discussion off the written record.) 18 agreement of -- I'm just going to --18 MR. SHOREMAN: Do you mind placing it (Requested portion of the record read 19 19 20 in front of the witness so I may ask a question? 20 back.) 21 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 21 MS. KATSANTONIS: I will. I'm going to

So do you have the question in mind,

22

22 object. It's an agreement of indemnity not

80 (317 to 320)

319 1 involved in this. 1 not going to put words in his mouth. But I think the way you're objecting is MR. SHOREMAN: When I've asked the that he -- your objection misstates the 3 question, you may place your objection on the 4 record. 4 testimony -- his testimony in that it suggests that he doesn't have any idea about any agreements. I 5 BY MR. SHOREMAN: don't care what the end result is. I just don't Before the witness has been placed what has been marked Exhibit 57. It's the first page of want your objection to be changing what he said. an indemnity agreement under the RLI logo. MS. KATSANTONIS: I understand what you Does that appear to be an RLI standard 9 said. Sure. I appreciate that. 10 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 10 indemnity form? MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; lack of Q. What's been marked as Exhibit 57, can 12 foundation. The witness has already testified he 12 you tell me if that is a standard form RLI 13 doesn't know what a standard form is. And 13 indemnity agreement, the first page of one? 14 irrelevant. And incomplete document. MS. KATSANTONIS: Same objection. 14 MR. SHOREMAN: Relevance is not really It appears to be an RLI indemnity 15 A. 16 an objection at this stage in the case, 16 agreement. 17 Ms. Katsantonis, as you well know. 17 BY MR. SHOREMAN: MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, you're getting Q. Will you just pass that back to me. 19 I'd like you to take a look --19 into something that you have no --MR. SHOREMAN: Why are you arguing? 20 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm going to want a 20 MS. KATSANTONIS: Let's just ask him if 21 copy of that, Mr. Shoreman. 21 22 he even knows what this is. MR. SHOREMAN: If you have a copier on, 318 320 MR. SHOREMAN: I will place this before 1 you're welcome to it. But it was introduced the witness and you will interrupt. into --BY MR. SHOREMAN: 3 MS. KATSANTONIS: Can you give me the But the question is: Do you recognize Bates stamp? that, sir, as a standard indemnity agreement issued MR. SHOREMAN: No, no. This is mine. 5 by RLI? 6 6 MS. KATSANTONIS: It's not Bates MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. stamped? So it hasn't been produced in the BY MR. SHOREMAN: 8 litigation. 9 Q. A form of one. 9 MR. SHOREMAN: It doesn't -- I'd ask MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; incomplete 10 10 Mr. Chilson about it. 11 and second objection, witness already testified he 11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, he did. 12 didn't have an understanding as to what the 12 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, again, it 13 standard indemnity agreement was. 13 hasn't been produced. 14 MR. SHOREMAN: That is the most --MR. SHOREMAN: It's an exhibit to one 15 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. As the 15 of your witness's depositions. 16 person defending Mr. Sandoz, I'm not going to get 16 MS. KATSANTONIS: All right. 17 in between your guy's spat, but I want to make sure 17 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 18 that part of your objection appears to be taking a I'd like you to refer to the second 19 statement he said -- about what was previously an 19 paragraph of the section named second under 20 exhibit that the -- the agreement at issue in this 20 indemnity, second paragraph of section 7. 21 case and his testimony that he doesn't really know MS. KATSANTONIS: Which section? The

22 second paragraph?

22 that that's a standard one because it was -- I'm

81 (321 to 324)

323 MR. SHOREMAN: Second paragraph under 1 point we could. 2 the --MS. KATSANTONIS: Right. My objection 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Could you just point the is more to the fact they haven't laid a foundation section out. that Mr. Sandoz has even reviewed this document MS. KATSANTONIS: I think he's right before today. here up in the indemnity section. MR. SHOREMAN: All right. MR. SHOREMAN: The second -- the second BY MR. SHOREMAN: paragraph below the paragraph --Would you like the question read back? THE WITNESS: Can I get the magnifying 9 A. 10 glass? 10 O. In your experience, your understanding, 11 with the paragraph that you just read, allow the MS. KATSANTONIS: Absolutely. I'm just 12 going to say I think it's improper to have the 12 surety to demand the collateral in the amount that 13 witness testify to a document he's stated he 13 it chooses at its sole discretion? 14 doesn't know anything about. 14 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; lack of A. You're asking me to read the last 15 foundation. Calls for speculation. 16 paragraph of that? 16 MR. SHOREMAN: Please stop interrupting 17 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 17 this deposition. That second paragraph of the second MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm putting in my Q. 18 19 section. 19 objection. 20 A. Okay. 20 MR. SHOREMAN: Your objection was put 21 in when the question was first asked. 21 Q. All right. Have you read it, sir? MS. KATSANTONIS: You just asked a new 22 A. 322 324 How long have you been in the surety Q. 1 question. business? MR. SHOREMAN: No, I didn't. I was in the surety business around 40 A. In my opinion, no. This is what I was 3 Α. 3 4 years. referring to when I was trying to -- trying to The paragraph that you just read, does Q. explain my understanding of the indemnity agreement 6 that give the surety a right to demand collateral where you have to have -- you have to have claims 7 from the obligor in an amount it chooses at its that are presented and you have to put reserves up sole discretion? 8 for those claims in order to ask for collateral to 9 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; lack of 9 be protected. And I wasn't aware that in the Nexus 10 foundation and calls for legal conclusion. 10 case where reserves had -- you know, substantial MR. PHILLIPS: You can still answer. 11 reserves had been posted. They may have. 12 David, as to your understanding. 12 BY MR. SHOREMAN: MS. KATSANTONIS: If you have an 13 Q. So that paragraph that you just read 14 is -- is the basis for your prior answer that they 14 understanding of it.

19 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. Again, I

16

17

21 MR. WILLIAMS: He asked a question.

20 think you misstated his testimony and --

Q. Is that paragraph, to your knowledge,

18 is that paragraph in the Nexus indemnity agreement?

22 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

15 can set up a reserve?

Yes.

A.

15

21

20 professional is.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. Please don't

16 coach my witness. In fairness, that is the exact

17 kind of questions that you were asking and we

18 just -- I let it ride because we all kind of know

19 that it's just what his understanding as a surety

I'm only talking this long because I

22 want to go home, and I'm fairly certain that at any

82 (325 to 328)

327 I'm asking if that paragraph appears in 1 up. the Nexus indemnity agreement? MS. KATSANTONIS: But that's not true, 2 A. Not that I'm aware of. and it's also calling for a hypothetical. 4 Now, in your experience -- let's put 4 MR. PHILLIPS: So you added a new Exhibit 57 aside. I'm no longer questioning you 5 objection? 6 MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes, and I think I'm about it. entitled to. He hasn't answered yet. This is about your knowledge of the 8 Nexus indemnity agreement and the rights -- your It's becoming very confusing when I get 9 understanding of the rights and obligations of the 9 a question, and I can't focus on the question. MR. SHOREMAN: Would you, please, read 10 parties. 10 11 back the question one more time, Madam Court 11 Is it your understanding that absent 12 claims in the amount of 10 million dollars that RLI 12 Reporter. 13 may make a unilateral demand that Nexus pay 10 13 (Requested portion of the record read 14 million dollars in collateral? 14 back.) 15 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. We're 15 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; lack of 16 here for -- this witness is here as a fact witness. 16 foundation. 17 You're not to be eliciting opinions from him, which 17 A. I don't believe they can. 18 is what you're doing and it's completely improper. 18 MR. SHOREMAN: All right. We missed 19 He's not here as an expert. 19 that because you're interrupting. 20 BY MR. SHOREMAN: 20 BY MR. SHOREMAN: Please answer the question, Mr. Sandoz. 21 Q. Please repeat your answer. 22 Ms. Katsantonis has no right to direct you not to 22 I don't believe they can. A. 326 328 1 answer. So please --O. All right. Now, let's refer you to the MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm not directing him 2 collateral agreement which was also entered as an exhibit in this matter today. not to answer. I'm objecting. Calls for a legal conclusion, and you're seeking opinion testimony. 4 I have no idea where that one is. MR. SHOREMAN: You've made your 5 It's the collateral agreement that you negotiated at the inception of the relationship. objection. Do you recall that, sir, it was MS. KATSANTONIS: Which is improper. MR. SHOREMAN: You've made your \$500,000 initially and then it was reduced? 9 objection. 9 Yes, but I don't know - I would like 10 A. I would have to have the question read 10 to refer to it if you're going to ask me questions 11 back, as I'm getting confused. 11 about it. (Requested portion of the record read All right. It is an exhibit to this 12 12 Q. 13 deposition. 13 back.) MS. KATSANTONIS: What are you looking 14 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm going to object. 14 15 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. That 15 for? 16 question was read back. You already had your 16 MR. PHILLIPS: The collateral 17 objections. That's the exact reading back. You've 17 agreement. You asked questions about it. 18 made your objections. We're past time. MR. SHOREMAN: It's the same. There 18 The question is read back. You don't 19 are some highlights. There is no writing on that. 19 20 get to object again. That's the way -- you've 20 MR. PHILLIPS: I'll double check. 21 stated your objections, and it wasn't a new 21 MR. SHOREMAN: All right. Well, just

22 hand that to him. Ignore the writing.

22 question coming from Mr. Shoreman. Let's wrap it

83 (329 to 332)

331

332

BY MR. SHOREMAN:

- Q. I placed before you what was previously
- 3 marked in this deposition as the collateral
- agreement entered by RLI and Nexus.
- Do you recognize that document, sir?

Yes, it's the one we looked at 6 previously.

- Under the terms -- to the best of your Q.
- 9 understanding, under the terms of that agreement, 10 may RLI unilaterally demand an increase in the
- 11 amount of collateral stated in that agreement, an
- 12 increase?
- 13 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; calls for 14 legal conclusion.

A. I don't believe that's the purpose of 16 this agreement.

17 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

- So the purpose you described in your O.
- 19 earlier testimony -- my question is: Given that
- 20 that document -- given your experience with that
- 21 document, may RLI simply say we are increasing the
- 22 amount of collateral set forth in the collateral

agreement on its own unilateral decision?

To my knowledge, I don't believe so. 2 A.

- 3 Q. Thank you, sir.
- MR. PHILLIPS: I'm trying to see if
- this was possibly -- was Exhibit 16. Never mind.
- 6 I don't see the writing on it.
- BY MR. SHOREMAN:
- Q. So by mid 2016, RLI was involved with
- 9 the Nexus program, is that right, issuing bonds by 10 mid 2016?
- A. 11
- 12 Q. And in your experience with the
- 13 program, how was it working at that time?

It was satisfactory, in my opinion. 14 A.

- 15 O. Do you know over the course of the
- 16 relationship between RLI and Nexus how much
- 17 premium, approximately, RLI earned issuing bonds at
- 18 the request of Nexus?

19 It would have to be a guess on my part. A.

- 20 Please do. Please guess. Q.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. 21
- 22 MR. PHILLIPS: Ms. Katsantonis, you're

- 1 not defending this deponent. I've been trying to
- be very cool letting it go, but we're well over
- time.
- 4 BY MR. SHOREMAN:
- Your best guess.

My best guess is between two million 6 and two and a half million dollars.

- There was some discussion concerning an
- 9 e-mail dated 12/7. And I believe it was, it's an
- 10 exhibit in this matter, but it's the e-mail that we
- 11 discussed where you stated that you were asked to
- 12 relay to Nexus the proposal that they pay -- that
- 13 Nexus pays 1.25 million dollars by February 28 or 14 RLI would cease the program.
- 15 Do you recall that document?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. I'm going 16 17 to object to your mischaracterization of the 18 e-mail.
- 19 MR. SHOREMAN: Just put the document in 20 front of him.
- MR. PHILLIPS: It's document 45. 21
- 22 MR. WILLIAMS: Didn't you say

1 objections aren't allowed for persons not

- representing. I think that she changed her mind.
- BY MR. SHOREMAN:
- 4 All right. Exhibit 45, Mr. Sandoz, you
 - read this document earlier.
- 6 Do you have it in mind?

I have it in front of me, yes. A.

- We heard the term in the course of this 8 O.
- deposition book of business.
- 10 What does that mean to you?

Can you - is it in this document? 11

- No, it's not in this document, but it's 12 O.
- 13 relevant to this document. Do you have an
- 14 understanding of a book of business as it relates
- 15 to --

7

330

16 A. As it relates to?

- 17 Q. -- surety?
- Surety. When I refer to the 18
- 19 miscellaneous surety book of business, it's all of
- 20 the bonds that I'm that were under my umbrella 21 that I was managing.
- 22

Well, I think there is some confusion

1

84 (333 to 336)

335

333

- 1 in regards to what was being asked of Nexus in
- 2 Exhibit 45.
- 3 (Mr. Williams left the deposition
- 4 room.)
- 5 BY MR. SHOREMAN:
- 6 Q. Was it proposed that a new surety take
- 7 over all of the existing bonds that RLI was holding
- 8 and had received premium for or was it suggested
- 9 that unless Nexus put up 1.25 million dollars by
- 10 February 28, RLI would cease writing bonds?
- 11 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection.
- 12 Mischaracterizes the document.
- 13 A. I believe RLI wanted to exit the
- 14 program at 2/28/17. And as stated, I was in the
- 15 process of trying to help Nexus have another home
- 16 for this program.

17 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

- 18 Q. Right. When you say have another home, 19 do you mean a surety that would continue to write
- 20 bonds for them?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What about the existing bonds that RLI
- 1 had issued and was holding, was it suggested that
- 2 Nexus would have to pay 1.25 million dollars in
- 3 February as collateral against the bonds that RLI
- 4 was holding?
- 5 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection.
- 6 Mischaracterizes the document.
- 7 A. I'm not sure. I don't recall.

8 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

- 9 Q. Well, do you see the last sentence, the
- 10 last two sentences where it says, we would also
- 11 like to do anything to help you manage the
- 12 cancelation of our bonds. He mentions he would put
- 13 some folks on the task of getting exoneration on
- 14 our bonds and would like to know the progress made 15 thus far.
- 16 A. The last two sentences of this memo 17 here?
- 18 O. Yes. Exhibit 45.
- 19 A. That's referring to having Nexus help20 manage the cancelation of the immigration bonds.
- 21 Q. Bonds that were held. Would that be
- 22 bonds held by RLI?

A. Yes.

- Q. And if you go up a bit to the sentence
- 3 that's beginning with we know it takes time to
- 4 replace the program and we assume that's the more
- 5 preferable route, so the goal we have set is to
- 6 have the program moved to a better fit for you by
- 7 2/28/17 and if the program is replaced by that
- 8 date, it is not necessary to provide the
- 9 collateral. We would just hold back the
- 10 contingency cancelation money that you would earn
- 11 if you qualify for contingency.
- So if the new surety was writing bonds
- 13 by 2/28 -- well, I'll take that back. Up until
- 14 2/28/17, RLI continued to write bonds; is that
- 15 right?

334

16 A. I believe so.

- 17 Q. And are you -- are you aware that RLI
- 18 had a unilateral right to cease writing bonds any 19 time it chose?
- 20 A. I believe they had the choice on21 whether they wanted to continue the program.
- Q. So if, in fact, by 2/28 it was required

- 1 that a new surety take over the entire book of
 - 2 business, take over all the bonds that were
 - 3 actually issued by RLI, it says, if the program was
 - 4 replaced by that date, it would not be necessary to
 - 5 provide collateral.
 - 6 Doesn't that suggest that what the
 - surety was actually doing was to write bonds going
 - 8 forward from 2/28 rather than take over the
 - 9 collateral, rather than take over all the bonds?
 - 10 Why would you refer to -- and that's a necessity to
 - 11 place collateral if the purpose of this proposal
 - 12 was to remove all the bonds to a new surety?
 - 12 was to remove an the bonds to a new surety:
 - MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. The 14 witness already testified he was unsure as to that 15 language.
 - 16 A. I think what I stated is that I hope 17 this is what I stated is that I was trying to
 - 18 transition the business to another surety and I
 - 19 know at some point in time, RLI I had
 - 20 discussions with RLI about transferring their book
 - 21 of business to the new surety as well.
 - 22 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

6

85 (337 to 340)

339

You did and you stated that that was in Q. 2017?

I believe so. 3 A.

MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection.

5 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

Would this note of 12/7/2016 predate

those discussions concerning the movement of a book

of business?

2

9 MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; misstates 10 his testimony.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry.

12 Ms. Katsantonis, he's my --

13 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

I'm sorry. I didn't hear your response Q.

15 over Ms. Katsantonis.

A. Yes, I believe so. 16

17 Q. And did, in fact, a new surety start

18 writing business for Nexus by 2/28/17, do you know?

A. That, I don't know. 19

Did, in fact, Nexus pay 1.25 -- one 20 Q.

21 million, 250 thousand in collateral -- in

22 collateral by 2/28/17?

MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; lack of

foundation.

I'm not sure. I do not know. A.

BY MR. SHOREMAN:

Q. Do you know if Nexus -- if RLI wrote a

single bond after 2/28/17?

A. I don't believe so, but I don't know

for sure. 8

Q. Did you receive an instruction in the

10 year 2016 to cease writing bonds for Nexus?

Did I receive instructions? A.

Yes. Were you told to cease writing 12 Q.

13 bonds for Nexus in the year 2016?

MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection. 14

15 A. There was a decision made to – at some

16 point not continue to write immigration bonds for 17 the Nexus program.

18 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

And when did those discussions begin? 19 Q.

That's - I think Vivian asked that and 20

21 I'm not real sure, but I think it was in that

22 time - I thought it was in the time frame of the

1 September, October, November, but -

If we take September as a date, that's

September, October, November, December, January, 3

February?

5 A. Yes.

> Q. Six months before they actually stopped

writing bonds?

A. Correct.

9 Q. And at any time in that period they

10 could stop writing bonds; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Does the -- let me refer you to the

13 indemnity agreement again, which is Exhibit -- do

14 you have that?

15 MR. PHILLIPS: That's right. I guess

16 I'll mention that on the record. Before it looks

17 like Exhibit 18 has the general surety --

18 commercial surety general indemnity agreement as

19 well as the collateral agreement and receipt which

20 you had given him before are both in Exhibit 18.

21 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

22 Do you have that before you,

340

1 Mr. Sandoz?

338

A. I'm going to have to look for it. I

went to 17 and 19, and I don't know where 18 is.

MR. PHILLIPS: Anyone -- just to keep

things moving on -- doesn't have a problem with me

giving this to him?

7 MR. SHOREMAN: No, that's fine.

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Use this one, Dave.

9 BY MR. SHOREMAN:

Q. Okay. We had some discussion about

11 collateral rights associated with this -- with the

12 RLI -- with the Nexus indemnity agreement and other

13 form indemnity agreement. Can you tell me just,

14 once again, does this -- the Nexus indemnity

15 agreement, does it permit RLI to demand collateral

16 for amounts above pending or actual claims made on

17 bonds?

MS. KATSANTONIS: Objection; calls for 18

19 a legal conclusion and lack of foundation.

MR. PHILLIPS: Before you answer,

21 David, this is -- before you answer. I just want

22 to again state, this is my deposition to defend and

86 (341 to 344)

343

344

- these are the same questions that you were asking.
- That's why I'm not objecting. I'm just letting it
- 3 go.
- BY MR. SHOREMAN:
- Q. I don't know, did you answer that,
- Mr. Sandoz?
- I don't believe so. A.
- Okay. All right. 8 O.
- 9 MR. SHOREMAN: Thank you. Mr. Sandoz, 10 I have no further questions.
- MR. PHILLIPS: Before we get started,
- 12 number one, I think there is very little tape left;
- 13 number two, we are past time. But -- please let me
- 14 finish. That in mind and subject to whether Dave
- 15 wants to or not, if I recall correctly, you had all
- 16 of 10 minutes left out of your original 7 hours, so
- 17 I would expect that we're not going to use more
- 18 than 10 minutes going forward. I don't think we
- 19 have the tape for it. But that said, I think
- 20 that's a fair compromise on the situation.
- 21 If we go beyond that, if Dave tells me
- 22 he wants to terminate the deposition or he says he
- 1 wants to, then we'll terminate it because it's went
- 2 beyond the amount of time allowed by the rules.
- 3 And, again, I think the compromise is if you get 10
- 4 more minutes, that would have been your full 7
- 5 hours today.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: All right. I 6
- 7 disagree because I believe counsel has added new
- 8 grounds and new issues. But in any event, I plan
- 9 on being brief, so let's just go for it, and we'll
- 10 see where we are.
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We have three
- 12 minutes left on this disk.
- This is the videographer. We're going 14 off the record at the end of disk number four at
- 15 7:38 p.m. We're off the record.
- 16 (Recess taken.)
- 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the 18 videographer. We're going back on the record at
- 197:41 p.m. at the start of disk number five.
- 20
- 21 **EXAMINATION**
- 22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Thank you. Mr. Sandoz, you were asked
- a series of questions of -- one of them was about
- the collateral agreement and receipt. And
- 4 Mr. Shoreman asked you about whether a surety can
- ask for an increase in the collateral agreement.
- 6 You said no, but you also said that's not the
- purpose of the agreement.
- Can you explain what you meant by not
- 9 the purpose -- that's not the purpose of the 10 agreement?

11 A. I don't think that agreement addresses 12 the question asked.

- Right. So the agreement doesn't
- 14 address whether or not -- it's a receipt -- it's an
- 15 agreement and receipt, right, and it's meant to
- 16 memorialize the collateral that's being given at a
- 17 certain amount of time, correct?
- 19 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- 20 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

A. I believe so.

- And so it's not meant to be a document 21
- 22 in which you discuss what other parameters of

1 collateral allow, correct?

18

342

Α. Not that I recall.

- Okay. And then looking at -- you were
- also asked a series of questions about the
- indemnity agreement, and I put a clear copy in
 - front of you so you would have it.
- And does the indemnity agreement
- provide any obligations of the surety?

9 Such as what? Can you -

- Well, he asked you whether or not 10
- 11 surety can or can not ask for collateral under the
- 12 indemnity agreement, right?
- MR. SHOREMAN: No. Objection; that's 13
- 14 not what I asked. I asked, did they ask for
- 15 collateral above and beyond pending or made claims.
- 16 MS. KATSANTONIS: No. Right.

17 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- In his interpretation of the indemnity
- 19 agree -- he asked you to try to interpret the
- 20 indemnity agreement, so let me ask it this way.
- First of all, does the surety sign the
- 22 indemnity agreement?

87 (345 to 348)

347

348

A. Nope.

- Right. And does the surety agreement O.
- 3 provide any obligations of the surety? I mean,
- doesn't the surety agreement set forth the rights
- of the surety and the obligations of the
- indemnitor?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; compound.
- BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. I'm just trying to help him along.
- Primarily. 10 A.
- Right. So in looking at the indemnity 11
- 12 agreement, what do you understand exoneration to 13 mean?
- When a bond is exonerated, are you 14 A. 15 talking about or in what context?
- Well, looking at paragraph 3(D), it
- 17 says, surety shall have every right, defense, and 18 remedy allowed by law, including the rights of 19 exoneration and segregation.
- 20 Do you know what's meant by exoneration 21 in that sentence?
- I think if the surety if there is a
- 1 cancelation clause in the bond, they have
- 2 the they would have the right to cancel those
- 3 bonds and then the bond principal would have to
- 4 secure the bond from another party, from another
- suretv.
- Q. That's what you think exoneration means 6
- there?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; asked and
- 9 answered.
- 10 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. Okay. Well, I'm just trying --11
- MR. PHILLIPS: You asked him what it 12
- 13 means, he told you what it means and you asked him
- 14 back are you sure?
- 15 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Okay. The second sentence says
- 17 indemnitors will procure the discharge of surety
- 18 from any bond and all liability by reason thereof.
- Do you have an understanding of what it 19 20 means to discharge the surety from liability?
- MR. WILLIAMS: Asked and answered. He
- 22 just answered it.

1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

Is that what you were referencing, were

you merging the two sentences?

Discharge is -- can you ask the

question again? I'm trying to follow what

you're --

- O. Well, there's two different sentences
- so I had asked you about exoneration and you gave
- 9 me your understanding of exoneration. So now I'm
- 10 asking with regard to the second sentence.
- Do you have an understanding of what it
- 12 is to procure the discharge of a surety from
- 13 liability?

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5

- 14 Well, the discharge of the surety
- 15 would -- in my understanding would be either the

16 replacement of the bond or cancelation of the bond.

- Okay. All right. And with regard to 17
- 18 this indemnity agreement, is there any provision in
- 19 here that talks about how much collateral a surety 20 can ask for?
- A. I would have to read the whole 21
- 22 indemnity agreement. Do we have time to do that?

Well, you answered a question that

- counsel raised about whether or not surety could
- ask for, I think that he said 10 million dollars,
- and you said, I don't believe they can.
 - And I don't believe they can.
- 6 O. And based on what?
- MR. SHOREMAN: You misstated my
- question again. I said could a surety ask for
- collateral of 10 million dollars, if claims and
- 10 pending claims did not amount to 10 million
- 11 dollars. That was my question.
- 12 MS. KATSANTONIS: Well, okay.
- 13 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 14 Q. And I'm asking you what's the basis?
- My understanding is you can't. In the 15
- 16 40 years that I've been in surety, I don't recall
- 17 any instances where the claims department has done 18 that.
- 19 But do you know whether or not the Q. 20 claims department has ever done that?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. He gave you
- 22 everything that he had to say about it.

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BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. All right. Sorry. But you don't know
- 3 all of the claims that the claims department has
- 4 dealt with, right, that's not your department?
- 5 A. I review the claims that relate to my 6 department, yes.
- 7 Q. Well, you're not in the claims
- 8 department, right?
- 9 A. No. The bonds that were written under
- 10 my -- under my division or under my department, I
- 11 have reviewed most of those, yes, during the course 12 of time.
- Okay. When RLI asked for 500,000
- 14 in -- when you asked Nexus to post 500,000 in
- 15 collateral, were there \$500,000 in claims at that 16 time?
- MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. I think this
- 18 actually goes outside what Mr. Shoreman was asking.
- 19 I'm just putting it on the record.
- 20 MR. SHOREMAN: I agree. I was asking
- 21 about collateral under the indemnity agreement.
- 22 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- Q. When you asked for --
- 2 MR. SHOREMAN: I made a point of
- 3 establishing these are two separate agreements.
- 4 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 5 Q. When you asked for 500,000 in
- 6 collateral, was there 500,000 in claims pending?
- 7 A. I think that I already answered that 8 many times.
- 9 Q. So the answer is no, right?
- 10 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; leading.
- 11 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:
- 12 Q. Can you say yes or no?
- 13 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
- 14 Objection; leading. You literally just said give
- 15 me a yes or no answer asking a leading question.
- MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm entitled to.
- 17 He's an adverse witness.
- MR. PHILLIPS: He is an adverse witness
- 19 now?
- MS. KATSANTONIS: Yes, he is.
- 21 MR. PHILLIPS: Okay.
- MR. WILLIAMS: You didn't lay any

1 foundation for that.

MR. SHOREMAN: If you have adverse

3 witness, I suggest that you end this witness.

4 MS. KATSANTONIS: Excuse me.

5 MR. PHILLIPS: Nope. I'm sorry. We're

6 at -- we're at 10 minutes.

7 MS. KATSANTONIS: I'm not having this

8 discussion right now.

9 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

10 Q. When you revised your -- you said that 11 you renegotiated the collateral to 250,000 in June 12 of 2016, was there 250,000 in claims pending at 13 that point in time?

14 A. I don't believe so.

- 15 Q. Right. And in December when you asked 16 for a million, 250 thousand in collateral, was 17 there a million, 250 thousand in claims pending at 18 that time?
- 19 MR. PHILLIPS: Objection; misstates his 20 testimony. Go ahead and answer as you understand 21 it.
- 22 A. Ask it again.

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1 BY MS. KATSANTONIS:

- Q. When RLI demanded a million, 250 in
- 3 collateral in December of 2016, was there a
- 4 million, 250 thousand in claims pending at the
- 5 time?

- A. No. And what I indicated is that was
- 7 a I was the delivery person to ask for that
- 8 amount.
- 9 Q. Well, you didn't think they were --
- 10 that RLI -- you wouldn't deliver a message that you
- 11 didn't think was consistent with RLI's rights under
- 12 the indemnity agreement, would you?
- 13 A. Perhaps.
- 14 Q. You believe that that request was
- 15 inconsistent with the rights under the indemnity
- 16 agreement?
- 17 A. Perhaps.
- 18 Q. Well, I mean, why perhaps?
- 19 A. It was a very unusual request, but I 20 was told to deliver that message to Nexus.
- Q. Did you advise anyone that you thought
- 22 it was improper or -- not improper or unusual?

89 (353 to 356)

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355
                                                                       STATE OF ILLINOIS )
              I don't recall.
       A.
2
              Okav.
       O.
                                                                         ROCK ISLAND COUNTY)
3
             MR. PHILLIPS: Just -- we're at that
                                                                             I, KONNI L. STAPF, a Certified Shorthand
   mark. I now leave it to -- I've been running a
                                                                        Reporter in and for the States of Illinois, Iowa
                                                                         and Arizona, do hereby certify that the facts as
   timer. It's up to Dave whether he wants to
                                                                       stated in the caption hereto are true; that the
                                                                         witness named on the face sheet was by me swom to
   continue or not.
                                                                         testify to the truth and nothing but the truth
                                                                         concerning the matters in controversy in this
             MS. KATSANTONIS: I probably have less
                                                                        cause; that said witness was thereupon examined
   than five minutes.
                                                                         under oath and the examination reduced to writing
                                                                        under my supervision, consisting of the foregoing
            THE WITNESS: Do you have one more
                                                                         pages, and the computer-aided transcript is a true
10 question because I'm not going to answer the same
                                                                         record of the testimony given by said witness and
11 questions over and over again. If you've got one
                                                                     10
                                                                             I further certify that I am neither
12 more question --
                                                                         attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed
                                                                         by any of the parties to the action in which this
13
             MS. KATSANTONIS: Just hold on, and
                                                                         deposition is taken; and, further, that I am not a
14 I'll tell you what I have, and you can make a
                                                                     13 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
                                                                         employed by the parties hereto or financially
15 decision. Okay? Because I don't want anyone to be
                                                                        interested in the action.
16 rash.
                                                                             In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
17
             THE WITNESS: I mean, I really --
                                                                         hand this 6th day in March, 2020.
                                                                     17
            MS. KATSANTONIS: I hear you. Let me
18
                                                                     18
                                                                               Konni L Stoof
19 ask you one more quick question.
                                                                             KONNI L. STAPF, CSR, RPR
20
             THE WITNESS: Are you going to ask one
                                                                             Registered Professional Reporter
                                                                             Illinois CSR License No.
21 question that follows with four more? I'm sorry.
                                                                               084-004144
22 I'm absolutely exhausted.
                                                                             Iowa CSR License No. 1168
                                                                             Arizona CSR
                                                                     22
                                                             354
             MR. WILLIAMS: It's over. Let's go.
             MR. PHILLIPS: David, are you done?
3
             THE WITNESS: I believe I'm done.
            MS. KATSANTONIS: All right. Thank you
5
   very much, Mr. Sandoz.
             THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the
7 videographer. We're at the conclusion of this
  proceeding and going off the record. It's
9 7:55 p.m.
10
             (Off the video record.)
            MS. KATSANTONIS: Thank you. I'll take
11
12 an etran. Can I get it anytime tomorrow?
13
             THE COURT REPORTER: Of course.
14
             MR. PHILLIPS: Can I get a pdf, please.
15
             MR. SHOREMAN: I would like an etran as
16 well and tomorrow too.
17
            (Proceeding concluded at 7:55 p.m.)
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